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John Chrysostom, Saint, d. 40  
Homilies of S. John Chrysosto  
n,  
Archbishop of Constantinople,  
on the  
second epistle of St. Paul th  
Apostle to the







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# LIBRARY OF FATHERS

OF THE

HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,

ANTERIOR TO THE DIVISION OF THE EAST AND WEST:

TRANSLATED BY MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH.



YET SHALL NOT THY TEACHERS BE REMOVED INTO A CORNER ANY MORE, BUT  
THINE EYES SHALL SEE THY TEACHERS. *Isaiah xxx. 20.*

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OXFORD,

JOHN HENRY PARKER;

F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.

MDCCCXLVIII.



TO THE MEMORY  
OF THE  
MOST REVEREND FATHER IN GOD

WILLIAM

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UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE HENCE IN PEACE,

IS

GRATEFULLY AND REVERENTLY

INSCRIBED.



THE

# HOMILIES

OF

S. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM,

ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE,

ON THE

SECOND EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

TO THE

CORINTHIANS.

TRANSLATED,

WITH NOTES AND INDICES.

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OXFORD,

JOHN HENRY PARKER ;

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MDCCCXLVIII.





## P R E F A C E.

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THE present Volume completes the set of St. Chrysostom's Commentaries on the Epistles of St. Paul, with the exception of that to the Hebrews, the Translation of which is preparing for the press. The edition of the original by MR. FIELD has afforded the advantage of an improved text, in fact of one as good as we can hope to see constructed from existing Mss.

These Homilies were delivered at Antioch in the opinion of the Benedictine Editors, though Savile doubted it. The question depends on the interpretation of a passage near the end of Hom. xxvi. in which St. Chrysostom speaks of Constantinople, and presently says 'here.' This, it has been rightly argued, he might say in the sense of 'in the place I am speaking of,' while he was not likely to say 'in Constantinople,' if he were speaking there.

For the Translation the Editors are indebted to the Rev. J. ASHWORTH, M.A. of Brasenose College. It has been carried through the press, and supplied with an Index, by the Rev. J. F. CHRISTIE, M.A. late Fellow of Oriel College, and Rector of Ufton Nervet, near Reading.

C. M.

*S. Clement,*  
1848.





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## HOMILY XXI.

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*Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you : but I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.*

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2 Cor. xiii. 1.

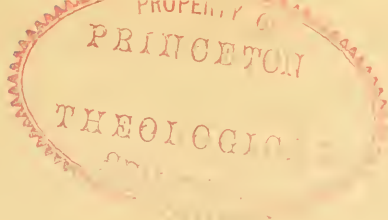
*This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*

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*Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.*



# HOMILIES

OF

S. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM,

ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE,

ON

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF S. PAUL THE APOSTLE

TO THE

CORINTHIANS.

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2 COR. i. 1—4.

*Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the Church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia: grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

It is meet to enquire, first, why to the former Epistle he adds a second; and what can be his reason for thus beginning with the mercies and consolation of God.

Why then does he add a second Epistle? Whereas in the first he had said, *I will come to you, and will know not the* <sup>1 Cor. 4,</sup> 19.

HOMIL. *speech of them which are puffed up, but the power; and*  
 I. — again towards the end had promised the same in milder  
 1 Cor. terms, thus, *I will come unto you when I shall pass through*  
 16, 5. 6. *Macedonia; for I do pass through Macedonia; and it may*  
*be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you; yet now after*  
*a long interval, he came not; but was still lingering and*  
*delaying even though the time appointed had passed away;*  
*the Spirit detaining him in other matters, of far greater*  
*necessity than these. For this reason, he had need to write*  
*a second Epistle, which he had not needed, had he but*  
*a little out-tarried his time.*

ἐῖ παρὰ  
 μικρὸν  
 ὑστέρη  
 σεν.

But not for this reason only, but also because they were  
 amended by the former; for him that had committed forni-  
 cation, whom before they applauded; and were puffed up  
 about, they had cut off, and separated altogether. And this  
 2 Cor. 2, he shews where he says, *But if any have caused grief, he hath*  
 5. 6. *not grieved me, but in part you all; that I may not be too*  
*severe. Sufficient to such a man is this punishment which*  
*was inflicted of many. And as he proceeds, he alludes again*  
 2 Cor. 7, to the same thing when he says, *For behold your sorrowing*  
 11. *after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea,*  
*what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what*  
*fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what*  
*revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be*  
*clear in this matter. Moreover, the collection<sup>a</sup> also, which he*  
*enjoined, they gathered with much forwardness. Wherefore*  
 2 Cor. 9, also he says, *For I know the forwardness of your mind, for*  
 2. *which I boast of you to them of Macedonia that Achaia was*  
*ready a year ago. And Titus too, whom he sent, they*  
*received with all kindness, as he shews when he says again,*  
 2 Cor. 7, *His inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he*  
 15. *remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and*  
*trembling ye received him. For all these reasons, he writes*  
*the second Epistle. For it was right, that, as when they*  
*were in fault he rebuked them, so upon their amendment he*  
*should approve and commend them. On which account the*  
*Epistle is not throughout so rebukeful, but only in a few*  
*parts towards the end. For there were even amongst them*  
*Jews who thought highly of themselves, and accused Paul,*

κατα-  
 Φορικω-  
 τίως.

<sup>a</sup> λογίαν, Ben. εὐλογίαν, *bountiful*, as 2 Cor. 9, 5. Engl. Vers.

as being a boaster, and worthy of no regard; whence also <sup>2 Cor.</sup> that speech of theirs; *His letters are weighty, but his bodily* <sup>I. 1-4.</sup> *presence is weak, and his speech contemptible*; meaning <sup>2 Cor.</sup> <sup>10, 10.</sup> thereby, when he is present he appears of no account, (for this is the meaning of, *his bodily presence is weak*,) but when he is away he boasts greatly in what he writes, (for such is the signification of, *his letters are weighty*.) Moreover, to enhance their own credit, these persons made a pretence of receiving nothing, to which he also alludes where he says, *that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.* <sup>2 Cor.</sup> And besides, possessing also the power of language, they were <sup>11, 12.</sup> forthwith greatly elated. Wherefore also he calls himself *rude in speech*, shewing that he is not ashamed thereof; nor deems <sup>2 Cor.</sup> <sup>11, 6.</sup> the contrary any great acquisition. Seeing then it was likely that by these persons some would be seduced, after commending what was right in their conduct, and beating down their senseless<sup>1</sup> pride in the things of Judaism, in that out of <sup>1</sup> *ἀπὸ νόμου* season they were contentious to observe them, he gives them a gentle<sup>2</sup> rebuke on this subject also.

[2.] Such then, to speak summarily and by the way, appears to me the argument of this Epistle. It remains to consider the introduction of the Epistle, and to say why, after his accustomed salutation, he begins, as he does, with the mercies of God. But first it is necessary to speak of the very beginning, and inquire why, in this part, he associates Timothy with himself. For, he saith, *Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother.* In the first Epistle he promised he would send him; and charged them, saying, *Now if* <sup>1 Cor.</sup> <sup>16, 10.</sup> *Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear.* How then is it that he associates him, here, in the outset with himself? After he had been amongst them, agreeably to that promise of his master, *I have sent unto you Timotheus, who* <sup>1 Cor.</sup> <sup>17.</sup> *shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ*, and had set every thing in order, he had returned back to Paul; who on sending him, had said, *Conduct him* <sup>1 Cor.</sup> <sup>16, 11.</sup> *forth in peace that he may come to me, for I look for him with the brethren.*

Since then Timothy was restored to his master, and with (2.) him having set in order the things in Asia, (for, says he, *I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost*;) had crossed again <sup>1 Cor.</sup> <sup>16, 8.</sup>

HOMIL. into Macedonia; as abiding with him Paul not unreasonably  
 1. associates him hereafter with himself. For then he wrote  
 from Asia, but now from Macedonia. Moreover, by thus  
 associating him, he at once gains increased respect for him,  
 σιμνό- and displays his own exceeding humility: for Timothy  
 σιζον and  
 ποιῶν was very inferior to himself, yet doth love bring all things  
 together. Whence also he every where makes him equal  
 Phil. 2, with himself; at one time saying, *as a son with the father*  
 22. *he hath served with me*; at another, *for he worketh the work*  
 1 Cor. *of the Lord, as I also do*; and here, he even calleth him,  
 16, 10. *brother*; by all making him an object of respect to the  
 Corinthians, amongst whom he had been, as I have said, and  
 given proof of his worth.

*To the Church of God which is at Corinth.* Again he  
 calleth them "the Church," to bring and bind them all  
 together in one. For it could not be one Church, while those  
 within her were sundered, and opposed. *With all the saints*  
*which are in all Achaia.* In thus saluting all, through the  
 Epistle addressed to the Corinthians, he would at once  
 honour these, and bring together the whole nation. But he  
 calls them *saints*, thereby implying that, if any be an impure  
 person, he hath no share in this salutation. But why, writing  
 to the mother city, does he address all through her, since he  
 doth not so every where? For instance, in his Epistle to the  
 Thessalonians, he addressed not the Macedonians also; and  
 in like manner in that to the Ephesians, he doth not include  
 all Asia; neither was that to the Romans written to those  
 also who dwell in Italy. But in this Epistle he doth so;  
 and in that to the Galatians. For there also he writeth not  
 to one city, or two, or three, but to all who are scattered every  
 Gal. 1, where, saying, *Paul an Apostle, (not of men neither by man,*  
 1-3. *but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, Who raised Him*  
*from the dead,) and all the brethren which are with me, unto*  
*the Churches of Galatia.* *Grace be to you and peace.* To  
 the Hebrews also he writes one Epistle to all collectively;  
 not distinguishing them into their several cities. What then  
 can be the reason of this? Because, as I think, in this case  
 all were involved in one common disorder, wherefore also he  
 addresses his Epistle to them in common, as needing one  
 common remedy. For the Galatians were all of them in-



fectcd. So too were the Hebrews, and so I think these 2 COR. I. 1-4.  
(Achaicans) also.

[3.] So then having brought the whole nation together in one, and saluted them with his accustomed greeting, for, saith he, *Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ*: hear how aptly to the purpose in hand 2 Cor. 1.<sup>2</sup> he begins, *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord* ver. 3.  
*Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.* Do you ask, how is this aptly to the purpose in hand? I reply, Very much so; for observe, they were greatly vexed and troubled that the Apostle had not come to them, and that, though he had promised, but had spent the whole time in Macedonia; preferring as it seemed others to themselves. Setting himself then to meet this feeling<sup>1</sup> against him, he τὸ ἀπολογ- μόνον.  
declares the cause of his absence; not however directly stating it, as thus; "I know, indeed, I promised to come, but since I was hindered by afflictions, forgive me; nor judge me guilty of any sort of contempt or neglect towards you:" but after another manner he invests the subject at once with more dignity and trustworthiness, and gives it greatness by the nature of the consolation<sup>b</sup>, so that thereafter they might not so much as ask the reason of his delay. Just as if one, having promised to come to one he loved and longed for, at length, arrived after dangers innumerable, should say, "Glory to Thee, O God, for letting me see the sight so longed for of his dear countenance! Blessed be Thou, O God, from what perils hast Thou delivered me!" for such a doxology is an answer to him who was preparing to find fault, and will not let him so much as complain of the delay; for one that is thanking God for deliverance from such great calamities he cannot for shame drag to the bar, and bid clear himself of loitering. Whence Paul thus begins, *Blessed be the God of mercies*, implying by the very words that he had been both brought into and delivered from mighty perils. For as David also doth not address God every where in one way, or with the same titles; but when he is upon battle and victory, *I will love Thee*, he saith, *O Lord my strength; the Lord is my buckler*<sup>2</sup>: when again upon delivery from affliction,<sup>2</sup> *The Lord is my* ὑπερασ- σιστής, Gr.  
and the darkness which overwhelmed him, *The Lord is my* Ps. 27, 1.

<sup>b</sup> ἐπαίων τῇ παραμυθίᾳ τὸ πρῶγμα.

HOMIL. I. *light and my salvation*; and as the immediate occasion suggests, he names Him now from His lovingkindness, now from His justice, now from His righteous judgment:—in like way Paul also here at the beginning describing Him by His loving-kindness, calling Him *the God of mercies*, that is, “Who hath shewed me so great mercies, as to bring me up from the very gates of death.”

(3.) And thus to have mercy is the most peculiar and most excellent attribute of God; and the most inherent in His nature; whence he calleth Him the *God of mercies*.

And observe, I pray you, herein also the lowly-mindedness of Paul. For though he were in peril, because of the Gospel he preached; yet saith he not, he was saved for his merit, but for the mercies of God. But this he afterwards declareth more clearly, and now goes on to say, *Who comforteth us in all tribulation*. He saith not, “Who suffereth us not to come into tribulation:” but, *Who comforteth in tribulation*. For this at once declareth the power of God; and increaseth the patience of those in tribulation. For, saith he, *tribulation worketh patience*. And so also the prophet, *Thou hast enlarged me in my distress*. He doth not say, “Thou hast not suffered me to fall into distress,” nor yet, “Thou hast quickly removed my distress,” but, whilst it continueth, *Thou hast enlarged me*: that is, “hast granted me much freedom and refreshment.” Which truly happened also in the case of the three children, for neither did He prevent their being cast into the flame, nor, when so cast, did He quench it, but while the furnace was burning He gave them liberty. And such is ever God’s way of dealing; as Paul also implies when he says, *Who comforteth us in all tribulation*.

But he teaches yet something more in these words: Do you ask what? Namely, that God doeth this, not once, nor twice, but without intermission. For He doth not one while comfort, another, not, but ever and constantly. Wherefore he saith, *Who comforteth*, not, *Who hath comforted*, and, *in all tribulation*, not, “in this or that,” but, *in all*.

*That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

<sup>1</sup> προανα-  
κρουσαι. See you not how he is beforehand<sup>1</sup> with his defence by suggest-

ing to the hearer the thought of some great affliction; and <sup>2 COR. 1. 1-4.</sup> herein also is his modesty again apparent, that he saith not for their own merits was this mercy shewed, but for the sake of those that need their assistance; "for," saith he, "to this end hath He comforted us, that we might comfort one another." And hereby also he manifesteth the great excellency of the Apostles, shewing that having been comforted and breathed awhile, he lieth not softly down, as we, but goeth on his way to anoint<sup>1</sup>, to nerve, to rouse others. Some, however, <sup>1 i. e. for the combat.</sup> consider this as the Apostle's meaning. "Our consolation is that of others also:" but my opinion is, that in this introduction, he is all along too censuring the false Apostles, those vain boasters, who sat at home, and lived in luxury; but this covertly, and, as it were, incidentally, the leading object being to apologise for his delay. "For," [he would say,] "if for this end we were comforted, that we might comfort others also, do not blame us that we came not; for in this was our whole time spent, in providing against the conspiracies, the violence, in dispersing the terrors which assailed us."

[4.] *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.* Not to depress the disciples by an aggravated account of his sufferings; he declareth on the other hand, that great and superabundant was the consolation also, and lifteth up<sup>c</sup> their heart, not hereby alone, but also by putting them in mind of Christ, and calling the sufferings 'His,' and <sup>2</sup>prior to the consolation deriveth a comfort from <sup>3</sup>πρὸ τῆς παρρησίας καλῆς αὐτοῦ. the very sufferings themselves. For what joy can I have so great as to be partaker with Christ, and for His sake to suffer these things? What consolation can equal this? But not from this source only does he raise the spirits of the afflicted, but from another also. Ask you what other? In that he saith, *abound*: for he doth not say, *As the sufferings of Christ are in us*, but as they *abound*, thereby declaring that they endure not His sufferings only, but even more than these<sup>d</sup>. For, saith he, "not whatsoever He suffered, that have we suffered; *but even this and more*<sup>3</sup>," for, consider, <sup>3</sup>περισσότερον.

<sup>c</sup> ἀνίστησιν. The word has here probably the double sense, "raiseth up the depressed," and "lifteth upward towards heaven."

mean, for an instant, to compare the sufferings of the Apostles with those of our Lord *in themselves*, but in one point only, their number. His sufferings alone were meritorious and well-pleasing

<sup>d</sup> St. Chrysostom does not, of course,

HOMIL. "Christ was cast out, persecuted, scourged, died," but we,  
 I. saith he, "more than all this," which even of itself were  
 consolation enough. Now let no one condemn this speech

Col. 1, of boldness; for he elsewhere saith, *Now I rejoice in my*  
 24. *sufferings, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions*  
*of Christ in my flesh.* Yet neither here nor there is it from  
 boldness or any presumptuousness. For, as they wrought  
 greater miracles than He, according to that saying of His,

John 14, *he that believeth on Me, shall do greater works than these,*  
 12. but all is of Him that worketh in them; so did they suffer  
 also more things than He, but all again is of Him that  
 comforteth them, and fitteth them to bear the evils that  
 befall them.

- (4.) With which respect Paul, aware how great a thing he  
 had said, doth again remarkably restrain it by adding, *So our*  
*consolation also aboundeth by Christ*; thus at once ascribing  
 all to Him, and proclaiming herein also His loving-kindness;  
 for, he saith not, "As our affliction, such our consolation;"  
 but "far more;" for, he saith not, "our consolation is equal to  
 our sufferings," but, *our consolation aboundeth*, so that the  
 season of struggles was the season also of fresh crowns.  
 For, say, what is equal to being scourged for Christ's sake,  
 and holding converse with God; and being more than match  
 for all things, and gaining the better of those who cast us out,  
 being unconquered by the whole world, and then the expect-  
 1 Cor. 2, tation of attaining hence to such good things, *as eye hath*  
 9. *not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart*  
*of man!* And what is equal to suffering affliction for godli-  
 ness' sake, and receiving from God consolations infinite, and  
 being rescued from sins so great and many, and counted worthy

in themselves, their's in and through  
 Him only; His turned away the Father's  
 wrath, their's were accepted by Him,  
 when reconciled; His were spiritual  
 also, their's bodily only; His were  
 borne by His own power, through His  
 divinity, their's not by their own, but  
 through His indwelling Spirit; but,  
 while of course, beyond all thought  
 inferior in every other respect, S.  
 Chrysostom infers from the Apostle's  
 words, that their bodily sufferings out-  
 numbered His, though these also were,  
 (he insists throughout) not their's, but

His in these His members, bestowed  
 by Him, borne through Him and ac-  
 ceptable in Him. The whole comment  
 is a development of the word περισσύνει  
 "aboundeth," whence he infers that  
 they were "more abundant," περισσύνει;  
 (as, plainly, the bodily sufferings of the  
 army of Martyrs have been more  
*numerous.*) Yet though true, the  
 statement, if repeated by one less  
 reverent and not corrected by the vivid  
 consciousness that these too were His  
 sufferings, would become profane.



of the Spirit, and of being sanctified and justified, and regarding <sup>2 COR.</sup>  
no man with fear and trembling, and in peril itself outshining all. I. 5.

[5.] Let us then not sink down when tempted. For no self-indulger hath fellowship with Christ, nor sleeper, nor supine [person], nor any of these lax and dissolute livers. But whoso is in affliction and temptation, this man standeth near to Him, whoso is journeying on the narrow way. For He Himself trode this; whence too He saith, *the Son of Man hath* <sup>Matt. 8,</sup>  
*not where to lay His head.* So then grieve not when thou art <sup>8.</sup>  
in affliction; considering with Whom thou hast fellowship, and how thou art all-purified by trials; and how great gain is thine. For there is nothing miserable, save the offending against God; but this apart, neither afflictions, nor conspiracies, nor any other thing hath power to grieve the right-minded soul: but like as a little spark, if thou cast it into a mighty deep, thou presently puttest out, so doth even a total and excessive sorrow, if it light on a good conscience, easily die away, and disappear.

Such then was the spring of Paul's continual joy: because in whatever was of God he was full of hope; and did not so much as take count of ill, so great, but though he felt as a man, yet sank not. So too was that Patriarch encompassed with joy in the midst of much painful suffering; for consider, he was exiled from his country, underwent journeyings long and hard; when he came into a strange land, had *not so much as to set his foot on.* Then <sup>Acts 7,</sup>  
again a famine awaited him, which made him once more a <sup>5.</sup>  
wanderer; after the famine again, came the seizure of his wife, then the fear of death, and childlessness, and battle, and peril, and conspiracies, and at the last that crowning trial, the sacrifice of his only-begotten and true<sup>e</sup> son, that agonizing, irreparable [sacrifice]. For think not, I pray you, that, because he cheerfully obeyed, he felt not all the things he underwent. For though his righteousness had been, as indeed it was, inestimable<sup>1</sup>, yet was he a man, and felt as <sup>1 μυστικός</sup>  
nature bade. But yet did none of these things cast him <sup>δικαιός.</sup>  
down, but he stood like a noble wrestler, and for each one was proclaimed, and crowned, a victor. So also the blessed Paul, though seeing trials in very snow-showers advancing on him daily, rejoiced and exulted, as though in the mid-de-

<sup>e</sup> γέννητον, i. e. the son of the true wife, as opposed to the son of the bondwoman.

HOMIL. lights of Paradise. As then he who is gladdened with this  
 I. joy cannot be a prey to despair; so he who maketh not this  
 his own is easily overcome of all; and is as one that hath  
 mouldy armour, and is wounded by even a common stroke:  
 but not so he who is well encased at all points, he is proof  
 against every shaft that cometh against him. And truly  
 stouter than any armour is joy in God; and whoso hath it,  
 nothing can ever make his head droop or his countenance  
 sad, but he beareth all things nobly. For what is worse  
 to bear than fire? what more agonizing than continual  
 torture? truly it hath a more overpowering<sup>1</sup> force to pain than  
 the loss of untold wealth, of children, of any thing; for, saith  
 Job 2, 4. he, *Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for  
 his life.* So nothing can be harder to bear than bodily pain;  
 nevertheless, because of this joy in God, what even to hear  
 of is intolerable, becomes both tolerable, and longed for:  
 and if thou take from the cross or from the gridiron the  
 martyr yet just breathing, thou wilt find such a treasure of  
 joy within him, as admits not of being told.

<sup>2</sup> τί πάλω. [5.] And doth any one say, What am I to do<sup>2</sup>; for now is no  
 time of martyrdom? What sayest thou? Is now no time of mar-  
 tyrdom? Never is it not a time; but ever is it before our eyes;  
<sup>3</sup> ἵδεν  
<sup>4</sup> νήφωμεν. if we<sup>3</sup> will keep them open. For it is not the hanging on a  
 cross only that makes a Martyr, for, were this so, then was  
 Job excluded from this crown; for he neither stood at bar,  
 nor heard judge's voice, nor looked on executioner; no, nor  
 while hanging on tree aloft had his sides mangled; yet were  
 his sufferings more hard to bear than many martyrs'; more  
 sharply than any stroke, did the tale of those successive  
 messengers strike and goad him on every side: and keener  
 the gnawings of the worms which devoured him in every part,  
 than thousand executioners.

(5.) Against what martyr then may he not worthily be set?  
 Surely against ten thousand. For in every kind [of suffering]  
 he both wrestled, and was crowned; in goods, and children,  
 and person, and wife, and friends, and enemies, and servants,  
 (for these too even did spit in his face,) in hunger, and visions,  
 and pains, and noisomeness; it was for this I said he might  
 worthily be set, not against one, nor two, nor three, but  
 against ten thousand Martyrs. For besides what I have

mentioned, the time also maketh a great addition to his <sup>2 Cor.</sup> crown; in that it was before the Law, before Grace, he thus <sup>I. 5.</sup> suffered, and that, many months, and all in its worst form; and all these evils assailed him at once. And yet each individual evil of itself intolerable, even that which seemeth most tolerable, the loss of his goods. For many have patiently borne stripes, but could not bear the loss of their goods; but rather than relinquish any part of them, were content even to be scourged for their sake, and suffer countless ills; and this blow, the loss of goods, appeared to them heavier than all. So then here is another method of martyrdom for one who bears this loss nobly. And doth any ask, How shall we bear it nobly? When thou hast learned that, by one word of thanksgiving, thou shalt gain more than all thou hast lost. For if at the tidings of our loss we be not troubled, but say, "Blessed be God," we have found far more abundant riches. For truly such great fruit thou shalt not reap, by expending all thy wealth on the needy, by going about and seeking out the poor, and scattering thy substance to the hungry, as thou shalt gain by this same word. And so neither Job do I admire so much in setting wide his house to the needy, as I am struck with and extol his taking the spoiling of his substance thankfully. The same in the loss of children it happeneth to see. For herein, also, reward no less than his who offered<sup>1</sup> his son<sup>1</sup> <sup>ἀναγα- γέντος, see Acts 7, 41.</sup> and presented him in sacrifice shalt thou receive, if, as thou seest thine die, thou shalt thank the God of love. For how shall such an one be less than Abraham? He saw not his son stretched out a corpse, but only looked to do so. So if he gain in the comparison by his purpose to slay, and his stretching forth his hand to take the knife, yet doth he lose <sup>Gen. 22,</sup> in that the child is lying dead here. And besides, he had <sup>10.</sup> some comfort in the prospect of a good work done, and the thought that this so excellent achievement was reserved for his own fortitude, and that the voice he heard came from above made him the readier. But here is no such thing. So that he had need have a soul of adamant, (who seeth a child, his only one, brought up in affluence, in the dawn<sup>2</sup> of <sup>ὑποφάνουσα</sup> fair promise, lying upon the bier<sup>3</sup> an outstretched corpse,) <sup>3</sup> <sup>βάθρου, bench, Ben. βήθρου.</sup> to take his hap with calmness. And should such an one,

HOMIL. hushing to rest the heavings of nature, be strengthened to  
 I. say the words of Job without a tear, *The Lord gave, the*  
 Job 1, *Lord hath taken away*; for those words' sake alone, he shall  
 21. stand with Abraham himself, and with Job be proclaimed a victor. And if, staying the wailings of the women, and breaking up the bands of mourners, he shall rouse them all to sing glory [to God], he shall receive above, below, rewards unnumbered; men admiring, angels applauding, God crowning him.

- (6.) [6.] And sayest thou, How is it possible for one that is man not to mourn? I reply, If thou wilt reflect how neither the Patriarch, nor Job, who both were men, gave way to any thing of the kind; and this too in either case before the Law, and Grace, and the excellent wisdom of the laws [we have]: if thou wilt account that the deceased has removed into a better country, and bounded away to a happier inheritance, and that thou hast not lost thy son, but bestowed him henceforward in an inviolable spot. Say not then, I pray thee, I am no longer called "father," for why art thou no longer called so, when thy son abideth? For surely thou didst not part with thy child, nor lose thy son? Rather thou hast gotten him, and hast him in greater safety. Wherefore, no longer shalt thou be called "father" here only, but also in heaven; so that thou hast not lost the title "father," but hast gained it in a nobler sense; for henceforth thou shalt be called father not of a mortal child, but of an immortal; of a noble soldier; on duty continually within [the palace]. For think not, because he is not present, that therefore he is lost; for had he been absent in a foreign land, the title of thy relationship had not gone from thee with his body. Do not then gaze on the countenance of what lieth there, for so thou dost but kindle afresh thy grief; but away with thy thought from him that lieth there, up to heaven. That is not thy child which is lying there, but he who hath flown away, and sprung aloft into boundless height. When then thou seest the eyes closed, the lips locked together, the body motionless, O be not these thy thoughts, "These lips no longer speak, these eyes no longer see, these feet no longer walk, but are all on their way to corruption!" O say not so: but say the reverse of this, "These lips shall speak better, and the eyes see



greater things, and the feet shall mount upon the clouds; <sup>2 COR.</sup>  
and this body which now rotteth away shall put on im- <sup>I. 5.</sup>  
mortality, and I shall receive my son back more glorious.  
But if what thou seest distress thee, say to thyself the while,  
This is [only] clothing, and he has put it off to receive it  
back more precious; this is an house, and it is taken down  
to be restored in greater splendour. For like as we, when  
purposing to take houses down, allow not the inmates to  
stay, that they may escape the dust and noise; but causing  
them to remove a little while, when we have built up the  
tenement securely, admit them freely; so also doth God;  
Who taking down this His decaying tabernacle, hath received  
him the while into His paternal dwelling and unto Himself,  
that when it hath been taken down and built anew, He may  
then return it to him more glorious.

Say not then, "He is perished, and shall no more be;"  
for these be the words of unbelievers; but say, "He sleepeth,  
and will rise again," "He is gone a journey, and will return  
with the King." Who sayeth this? He<sup>d</sup> that hath Christ  
speaking in him. *For, saith he, if we believe that Jesus* <sup>1 Thess.</sup>  
*died and rose again and revived, even so them also which sleep* <sup>4, 14.</sup>  
*in Jesus will God bring with Him.* If then thou seek thy  
son, there seek him, where the King is, where is the army of  
the Angels; not in the grave; not in the earth; lest whilst  
he is so highly exalted, thyself remain grovelling on the  
ground.

If we have this true wisdom, we shall easily repel all  
this kind of distress; and *the God of mercies and Father*  
*of all comfort* comfort all our hearts, both those who  
are oppressed with such grief, and those held down with any  
other sorrow; and grant us deliverance from all despair,  
and increase of spiritual joy; and to obtain the good  
things to come; whereunto may all we attain, through the  
grace and lovingkindness of our Lord Jesus Christ, with  
Whom unto the Father, together with the Holy Spirit, be  
glory, power, honour, now and ever, and world without  
end. Amen.

<sup>d</sup> i. e. Paul. See 2 Cor. 13, 3.

## HOMILY II.

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2 COR. i. 6, 7.

*And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation: which is wrought in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer. . . . And our hope of you is stedfast.*

HAVING spoken of one, and that the chiefest, ground of comfort and consolation, namely, having fellowship [by sufferings] with Christ: he layeth down as second, this which he now mentions, namely, that the salvation of the disciples themselves was procured thereby. “Faint not, therefore, he says, nor be confounded and afraid, because we are afflicted; for this same thing were rather a reason for your being of good cheer: for had we not been afflicted, this had been the ruin of you all.” How, and wherein? For if through lack of spirit<sup>1</sup> and fear of danger we had not preached unto you the word, whereby ye learned the true knowledge, your situation had been desperate. <sup>1</sup> *μαλακισθέντες* Seest thou again the vehemence and earnest contention<sup>2</sup> of Paul? <sup>2</sup> *φιλονεικία.* The very things which troubled them he uses for their comfort. For, saith he, the greater the intensity of our persecutions, the greater should be the increase of your good hope; because that the more abundant also in proportion is your salvation and consolation. For what hath equal force of consolation with this of having obtained such good things through the preaching. Then that he

may not seem to be bringing<sup>1</sup> the encomium round to him-<sup>2</sup> 2 COR. self alone, see how he maketh them too to share these <sup>1. 7.</sup> praises with him. For to the words, *Whether we be* <sup>1</sup> πειρασ. *afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation:* he adds, *which is wrought in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer.* Afterwards, indeed, he states this more clearly, thus saying, *As ye are partakers of the* <sup>ver. 7.</sup> *sufferings, so also of the consolation;* but here also meanwhile he alludes to it in the words, *the same sufferings*, so making<sup>2</sup> what he says include them. For what he saith is <sup>2</sup> κοινωνίας τὸν λόγον this, “Your salvation is not our work alone, but your own as well; for both we in preaching to you the word endure affliction, and ye in receiving it endure the very same; we to impart to you that which we received, ye to receive what was imparted, and not to let it go.” Now what humility can compare with this, seeing that those who fell so far short of him, he raiseth to the same dignity of endurance? for he saith, *Which is wrought in you in the enduring of the same sufferings;* for not through believing only cometh your salvation, but also through the suffering and enduring the same things with us. For like as a pugilist<sup>3</sup> is an object of <sup>3</sup> παγ-κρατίας-της admiration, when he doth but shew himself, and is in good training, and hath his skill within himself, but when he is in action<sup>4</sup>, enduring blows, and striking his adversary, then <sup>4</sup> ἐνέργη most of all shineth forth, because that then his good training is most put in action<sup>5</sup>, and the proof of his skill evidently <sup>5</sup> ἐνεργεῖται shewn; so truly is your salvation also then more especially put into action<sup>6</sup>, that is, is evidenced, increased, heightened, <sup>6</sup> ἐνεργεῖται when it hath endurance, when it suffereth and beareth all things nobly. So then the work<sup>7</sup> of salvation consisteth not <sup>7</sup> ἐνεργεία in doing evil, but in suffering evil. Moreover he saith not, “which worketh,” but, *which is wrought*<sup>a</sup>, to shew that, together with their own willingness of mind, grace also which wrought in them did contribute much.

Ver. 7. *And our hope of you is stedfast.*

That is, though ye should suffer ills innumerable, we are confident that ye will not turn round<sup>8</sup>, either upon your own <sup>8</sup> ὁμειψί-μοις διωγ-μοίς trials or upon our persecutions. For so far are we from <sup>8</sup> οὐ μόνον suspecting you of being confounded on account of our <sup>8</sup> Ben. Ed.

<sup>a</sup> οὐ τῇ ἐνεργούσῃ ἀλλὰ τῇ ἐνεργουμένῃ.

HOMIL. sufferings that even when yourselves shall be in peril, we  
 II. are then confident concerning you.

[2.] Seest thou, how great had been their advance since the former Epistle? For he hath here witnessed of them far greater things than of the Macedonians, whom throughout that Epistle he extolleth and commendeth. For on their  
 1 Thess. [the Macedonians'] account he feared and saith, *We sent,*  
 3, 2. 3. *unto you, Timotheus....to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith, that no man should be moved by these afflictions, for yourselves know that we are appointed there-*  
 ver. 5. *unto. And again: For this cause when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you: and our labour be in vain. But of these [the Corinthians] he saith nothing of this kind, but quite the contrary, Our hope of you is stedfast.*

Ver. 6, 7. *Or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. Knowing that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so also of the consolation.*

That for their sakes the Apostles were afflicted, he shewed when he said, *whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation*: he wishes also to shew that for their sakes also, they were comforted. He said this indeed even a little above, although somewhat generally<sup>1</sup>, thus; *Blessed be God, Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble.* He  
 1 ἀδικοῦ-  
 στω;.  
 ver. 4. now repeats it here too in other words more clearly and

more<sup>2</sup> home to their needs. *For whether we be comforted,*  
 2 θερασ-  
 τικώτε-  
 ρον. says he, *it is for your comfort.* What he means is this; our comfort becometh your refreshment, even though we should not comfort you by word. If we be but a little refreshed, this availeth for encouragement to you; and if we be ourselves comforted, this becometh your comfort. For as ye consider our sufferings your own, so do ye also make our comfort your own. For surely it cannot be, that, when ye share in worse fortune with us, ye will not share in the better. If then ye share in every thing, as in tribulation, so in comfort, ye will in no wise blame us for this delay and slowness in coming, because that both for your sakes we are in tribulation, and for your sakes in comfort. For lest any should think this a hard saying, "for your sakes we thus suffer,"

he adds, "for your sakes also we are comforted," and "not <sup>2</sup> COR. we alone are in peril; for ye also," saith he, "are partakers of <sup>I. 8.</sup> the same sufferings." Thus then, by admitting them to be <sup>(2.)</sup> partakers in the perils, and ascribing to them the cause of their own comfort, he softeneth what he saith. If then we be beset by craft<sup>1</sup>, be of good cheer; we endure this, that your<sup>1</sup> <sup>ἐπιβου-</sup> faith may grow in strength. And if we be comforted, boast <sup>λενόμεθα</sup> yourselves<sup>2</sup> in this also; for we enjoy this too for your sakes, that<sup>2</sup> <sup>ἐναβέ-  
νισθε</sup> thereby ye may receive some encouragement, by sharing in our joy. And that the comfort he here speaks of is that they<sup>3</sup> <sup>Ben.</sup> enjoyed, not only from being comforted by themselves<sup>4</sup>, but <sup>ἐκαρ-  
ποῦντο.</sup> also from knowing them<sup>4</sup> to be at rest, hear him declaring in<sup>4</sup> the <sup>Apostles</sup> what follows next, *Knowing that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so<sup>5</sup> also of the comfort.* For as when we suffer<sup>5</sup> <sup>shall ye  
be also:  
Eng.  
Vers.</sup> persecution, ye are in distress as though yourselves so suffering; so are we sure, that when we are comforted, ye think the enjoyment also your own. What more humble-minded than this spirit? He who so greatly surpasseth in perils, calleth them "partakers," who endured no part of them whatever<sup>6</sup>; whilst of the comfort he ascribeth the whole <sup>ὅτι τὸ  
πολλοσ-  
τόν</sup> cause to them, not to his own labours.

[3.] Next, having spoken before only generally of troubles, he now maketh mention of the place too where they<sup>7</sup> endured<sup>7</sup> <sup>Ben.  
he</sup> them.

Ver. 8. *For we would not, Brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia.*

"These things we speak," saith he, "that ye may not be ignorant of what befell us; for we wish, yea have earnestly endeavoured, that ye should know our affairs:" which is a very high proof of love. Of this even in the former Epistle he had before given notice, where he said, *For a great door<sup>1</sup> Cor. 16, 8. 9. and effectual is opened to me at Ephesus, and there are many adversaries.* Putting them then in mind of this, and recounting how much he suffered, he saith, *I would not have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia.* And in his Epistle to the Ephesians too he said the same. For having sent Tychicus to them, he gives this as the reason of his journey: whence he saith, *But that ye may know my<sup>Eph. 6, 21. 22.</sup> affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all*



HOMIL. *things; whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose,*  
 II. *that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort*  
*your hearts.* And in other Epistles also he doeth the very  
 same. Nor is it superfluous, but even exceedingly necessary:  
 both because of his exceeding affection for the disciples, and  
 because of their continual trials; wherein the knowledge of  
 each other's fortunes was a very great comfort; so that if  
 these were calamitous, they might so be prepared, both to  
 share the anxiety, and to be safer against falling; or if  
 these were good, they might rejoice with them. He here,  
 however, speaketh as well of being delivered from trials,  
 as of being assaulted by them, saying,

*We were burthened out of measure above strength.* Like  
<sup>1 βαπτισ-  
ζόμενον</sup> a vessel sinking<sup>1</sup> under some mighty burthen. He may seem  
 to have said only one thing here *out of measure* and *above*  
*strength*: it is, however, not one, but two; for lest one should  
 object, "What then? granting the peril were out of measure,  
 yet it was not great to you;" he added, it both was great, and  
 surpassed our strength, yea, so surpassed it,

*That we despaired even of life.*

That is, we had no longer any expectation of living. What  
 David calleth *the gates of hell, the pangs and the shadow of*  
*death*, this he expresth by saying, "We endured peril  
 pregnant with certain death."

<sup>2 answer,  
marg.</sup> Ver. 9. *But we had the sentence<sup>2</sup> of death in ourselves,*  
*that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which*  
*raiseth the dead.*

What is this, *the sentence of death*? The vote, the judg-  
 ment, the expectation. For so spake our affairs; our fortunes  
 gave this answer, "We shall surely die."

To be sure, this did not come to the proof, but only as far  
 as to our anticipations, and stopped there: for the nature of  
 our affairs did so declare, but the power of God allowed not  
 the declaration to take effect; but permitted it to happen  
 only in our thought, and in the expectation: wherefore he  
<sup>3 τῇ πίστει</sup> saith, *We had the sentence of death in ourselves*, not in fact<sup>3</sup>.  
 And wherefore permitted He peril so great as to take away  
 our hope, and cause us to despair? *That we should not*  
 (3.) *trust in ourselves*, saith he, *but in God.* These words Paul  
 said, not that this was his own temper. Away with such a

thought, but as attuning<sup>1</sup> the rest by what he saith of 2 COR. himself, and in his great care to speak modestly. Whence <sup>I. 10.</sup> also further on he saith, *There was given to me a thorn* <sup>ῥυτίδιον</sup> <sup>2 Cor.</sup> *in the flesh,* (meaning his trials,) *lest I should be exalted* <sup>12, 7.</sup> *above measure.* And yet God doth not say, that He permitted them for this, but for another reason. What other? That His strength might be the more displayed; *For,* saith he, <sup>ver. 9.</sup> *My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.* But, as I said, he no where forgetteth his own peculiar character, classing himself with those who fall short exceedingly, and stand in need of much discipline and correction. For if one or two trials suffice to sober even ordinary men, how should he, who of all men had most cultivated lowliness of mind his whole life long, and had suffered as no other man did, after so many years, and a practice<sup>2</sup> of wisdom worthy of the heavens, be <sup>2 φιλοσοφία</sup> in need of this admonition? Whence it is plain that, here too, it is from modesty, and to calm down those who thought highly of themselves and boasted, that he thus speaks, *That we should not trust in ourselves, but in God.*

[4.] And observe how he treateth them tenderly<sup>3</sup> here also. <sup>3 θειάπειν</sup> For, saith he, these trials were permitted to come upon us for your sakes; of so great price<sup>4</sup> are ye in God's sight; for *whether* <sup>4 τοσούτου</sup> *we be afflicted,* saith he, *it is for your consolation and salvation;* <sup>τιμᾶται ὑμᾶς.</sup> but they were *out of measure* for our sake, lest we should be high minded. *For we were pressed out of measure and beyond strength that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God that raiseth the dead.* He again putteth them in mind of the doctrine of the Resurrection, whereon he said so much in the former Epistle, and confirmeth it from the present circumstances; whence he added,

Ver. 10. *Who delivered us from so great deaths.*

He said not, "from so great dangers," at once shewing the insupportable severity of the trials, and confirming the doctrine I have mentioned. For whereas the Resurrection was a thing future, he sheweth that it happeneth every day: for when [God] lifteth up again a man who is despaired of, and hath been brought to the very gates of hell, He sheweth

<sup>c</sup> τηλικούτων θανάτων, τηλικούτου θανάτου, received text.

HOMIL. none other thing than a resurrection, snatching out of the  
 II. very jaws of death him that had fallen into them: whence in the case of those despaired of, and then restored either out of grievous sickness, or insupportable trials, it is an ordinary way of speaking to say, We have seen a resurrection of the dead in his case.

Ver. 10, 11. *And we trust that He will yet deliver us; ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons<sup>d</sup>, thanks may be given by many on our behalf.*

Since the words, *that we should not trust in ourselves*, might seem to be a common charge and accusation, and to allude to some amongst them; he softeneth<sup>1</sup> again what he said, by calling their prayers a great protection, and at the same time shewing that [this] our life must be throughout a scene of trouble<sup>2</sup>. For in those words, *And we trust that He will yet deliver us*, he predicts a future sleet<sup>3</sup> of many trials; but still no where aught of being forsaken, but of succour again, and support. Then, lest, on hearing that they were to be continually in perils, they should be cast down, he shewed before the use of perils; for instance, *that we should not trust in ourselves*; that is, that He may keep us in continual humility, and, that their salvation may be wrought; and many other uses besides; the being partakers with Christ; (*for*, saith he, *the sufferings of Christ abound in us*;) the suffering for the faithful; (*for*, saith he, *whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation*;) the superior lustre this last<sup>4</sup> should shine with<sup>5</sup>; *which*, saith he, *is wrought* [in you] *in the enduring of the same sufferings*; their being made hardy; and besides all these, that of seeing the resurrection vividly portrayed before their eyes: for *He hath delivered us from so great deaths*; being of an anxious mind, and ever looking unto Him, *for*, saith he, *we trust that He will yet deliver us*; its rivetting<sup>6</sup> them to prayers, for he saith, *ye also helping together by prayer for us*. Thus having shewn the gain of affliction, and then having made them

<sup>1</sup> παρα-  
μυθίσται.

<sup>2</sup> ἐναγών.  
ιον.  
<sup>3</sup> ἐμφάδας.

<sup>4</sup> i. e.  
their sal-  
vation  
<sup>5</sup> διαλάμ-  
πιν μι-  
ζόνως.  
vid.  
supra.

<sup>6</sup> προση-  
λῶσθαι

<sup>d</sup> ἐν πολλῷ προσώπῳ. (Rec. text, ἐκ πολλῶν προσώπων.) perhaps "bestowed upon us as representing many." See Hom. xli. §. 8. on the 1st Cor. and the note.



anxious in mind: he anointeth once more their spirits <sup>2 COR. I. 10, 11.</sup> [for the combat], and animates them to virtue by witnessing great things of their prayers, for that to these God had granted <sup>ε</sup> Paul; as he saith, *Ye helping together by prayer for us.* But what is this: *That for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons<sup>h</sup>, thanks may be given by many on our behalf?* *He delivered us from those deaths,* saith he, *ye also helping together by prayer*; that is, praying all of you for us. For *the gift bestowed upon us*, that is, our being saved, He was pleased to grant you all, in order that many persons might give Him thanks, because that many also received the boon.

[5.] And this he said, at once to stir them up to prayer for (4.) others, and to use them always to give thanks to God for whatever befalleth others, shewing that He too also willeth this exceedingly. For they that are careful to do both these for others, will much more for themselves shew an example of both. And besides this, he both teacheth them humility, and leadeth on to more fervent love. For if he, who was so high above them, owneth himself to have been saved by their prayers: and that to their prayers himself<sup>i</sup> had been granted as a boon of God, think what their modesty and disposition ought to have been. And observe, I pray you, this also; that even if God doeth any thing in mercy, yet prayer doth mightily contribute thereunto. For at the first he attributed his salvation to His mercies; for “The God of mercies,” he says, Himself “delivered us,” but here to the prayers also. For that on him too that owed the ten thousand talents He had mercy <sup>Mat. 18, 24, 27.</sup> after that he fell at His feet; although it is written, *that being moved with compassion, He loosed him.* And again to that “woman of Canaan,” it was after that long attendance <sup>Mat. 15, 22.</sup> and importunity of hers, that He finally granted the healing <sup>1</sup> *πρὸς-ιδρύαν* of her daughter, even though of His mercy He healed her. *καὶ καρτερίαν.* Hereby then we learn, that even though we are to receive mercy, we must first make ourselves worthy of the mercy; for though there be mercy, yet it seeketh out those that are

<sup>ε</sup> The marginal reading of Savile, which Mr. Field has received into his text, has been followed. Previous editions read *ἡχαρίσαντο*.

<sup>h</sup> Chrysostom reads *ἐν πολλῷ προσώπῳ*.

See above, and on 1 Cor. Hom. xli. 8.

<sup>i</sup> Ben. *αὐτῷ*, that a gift had been given him through their prayers by God.

HOMIL. worthy. It will not come upon all without distinction ;  
 II. those even who have no feeling; for He saith, *I will have*  
 Ex. 33. *mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have com-*  
 Rom. 9. *passion on whom I will have compassion.* Observe at least  
 15.

what he saith here, *Ye also helping together by prayer.* He hath neither ascribed the whole of the good work to them, lest he should lift them up, nor yet deprived them of all share whatever in it, in order to encourage them, and animate their zeal, and bring them together one to another. Whence also he said, “He also granted to you my safety.”

ἡδυσωπισ- For oftentimes also God is abashed<sup>1</sup> by a multitude praying with  
 ται. one mind and mouth. Whence also He said to the prophet,

Jonah<sup>4</sup>, *And shall not I spare this city, wherein dwell more than six*  
 11. *score thousand persons?* Then lest thou think He respecteth

Is. 10, the multitude only, He saith, *Though the number of Israel*  
 22. *be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.* How then saved He the Ninevites? Because in their case, there was not only a multitude, but a multitude and virtue too.

Jonah<sup>3</sup>, For each one *turned from his evil way.* And besides, when

10. He saved them, He said that they discerned not *between*  
 4, 11. *their right hand and their left hand:* whence it is plain that even before, they sinned more out of simpleness than of wickedness: it is plain too from their being converted, as they were, by hearing a few words. But if their being six score thousand were of itself enough to save them, what hindered even before this that they should be saved? And why saith He not to the Prophet, *And shall I not spare this city which so turneth itself?* but bringeth forward the score thousands. He produceth this also as a reason over and above. For that they had turned was known to the prophet, but he knew not either their numbers or their simpleness. So by every possible consideration he is desirous to soften them. For even greatness of number hath power, when there is virtue withal. And truly the Scripture elsewhere also

Acts 12, sheweth this plainly, where it saith, *But prayer was made*  
 5. *without ceasing of the Church unto God for him:* and so great power had it, even when the doors were shut, and chains lay on him, and keepers were sleeping by on either side, that it led the Apostle forth, and delivered him from them all. But as, where there is virtue, greatness of number

hath mighty power; so where wickedness is, it profiteth <sup>2 COR.</sup> nothing. For the Israelites, of whom He saith that the <sup>I. 10, 11.</sup> number of them was as the sand of the sea, perished every <sup>1s. 10,</sup> one, and those too in the days of Noe, were both many, <sup>22.</sup> yea, numberless; and yet this profited them nothing. For greatness of number hath no power of itself, but only as an adjunct<sup>1</sup>.

[6.] Let us then be diligent in coming together to the prayers<sup>k</sup>, <sup>1 ἐν προσ-</sup> and let us pray for one another, as they did for the Apostles. <sup>ῳ, θήκης</sup> For [so] we both fulfil a commandment, and are "anointed"<sup>l</sup> <sup>μύρις.</sup> unto love: (and when I say love, I speak of every good thing:) and also learn<sup>m</sup> to give thanks with more earnestness: for they that give thanks for the things of others, much more will they for their own. This also was David wont to do, saying, *Magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His* <sup>Ps. 34,</sup> *name together*; this the Apostle too doth every where <sup>3.</sup> require. This let us too labour in; and let us shew forth unto all the beneficence of God, that we may get companions in the act of praise: for if when we have received any good from men, by proclaiming it forth we make them the readier to serve us: much more shall we, by telling abroad the benefits of God, draw Him on to more good-will. And if when we have received benefits of men we stir up others also to join us in the giving of thanks, much more ought we to bring many unto God who may give thanks for us. For if Paul who had so great confidence [toward God] doth this, much more is it necessary for us to do it. Let us then (5.) exhort the saints to give thanks for us; and let us do the same ourselves for one another. To priests especially this good work belongs, since it is an exceeding privilege<sup>2</sup>. <sup>2 μίγισ-</sup> For drawing near, we first give thanks for the whole world <sup>τον ἅγα-</sup> and the good things common [to all]. <sup>θόν</sup> For even though the blessings of God be common, yet doth the common preservation<sup>n</sup> include thine own; so that thou both owest common thanksgivings for thine own peculiar<sup>3</sup> blessing,<sup>3</sup> <sup>3 ἰδίαν</sup>

<sup>k</sup> ταῖς δεήσεσι, i. e. of the Church.

<sup>l</sup> ἀλειψόμεθα. The metaphor is taken doubtless from the games, but it seemed better to retain it, from its

typical connection with the graces of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>m</sup> "And let us learn." Benedict.

<sup>n</sup> ἀλλὰ καὶ σὺ ἐν τῷ κοινῷ ἰσώθης.

HOMIL. and for the common blessings shouldest of right render up thine  
 II. own peculiar<sup>1</sup> praise: for He lighted up the sun not for thee  
 ἰδιόαζου- alone, but also for all in common ; but nevertheless thou for  
 σαι thy part hast it whole<sup>p</sup>. For it was made so large for the  
 common good ; and yet thou individually seest it as large as  
 all men have seen it ; so that thou owest a thanksgiving as  
 great as all together ; and thou oughtest to give thanks for  
 what all have in common, and likewise for the virtue of others ;  
 for on account of others, too, we receive many blessings ; for  
 had there been found in Sodom ten righteous only, they had  
 not suffered what they did. So then let us give thanks also  
 for the confidence of others [toward God]. For this custom  
 is an ancient one, planted in the Church from the beginning.

Rom. 1, Thus Paul also giveth thanks for the Romans, for the Corinth-  
 8. ians, for the whole world. And tell me not, “ The good work is  
 1 Cor. 1, none of mine ;” for though it be none of thine, yet even so  
 4. oughtest thou to give thanks that thy member is such an one.  
 1 Tim. And besides, by thy acclamation thou makest it thine own, and  
 2, 1. sharest in the crown, and shalt thyself also receive the gift.  
 On this account it is that the laws of the Church<sup>a</sup> command  
 prayer also to be thus made, and that not for the faithful  
 only, but also for the Catechumens. For the law stirreth up  
 2 ἀμνη- the faithful to make supplication for the unbaptized<sup>2</sup>. For  
 τῶν, un- initiated when the Deacon saith<sup>r</sup>, “ Let us pray earnestly for the

<sup>p</sup> ἐν τῷ μίρῳ τὸ ὅλον ἔχεις.

<sup>a</sup> See Bingham, *Christian Antiqu.* book xiv. ch. 5. §. 3. Goar, pp. 70, and 161.

<sup>r</sup> The whole Prayer for the Catechumens, as gathered from the Homily, will stand thus. “ Let us pray earnestly for the Catechumens, That the all-pitying and merciful God would listen to their prayers, that He would open the ears of their hearts, and instil them with the word of truth, that He would sow His fear in them, and confirm His faith in their minds, that He would unveil to them the Gospel of righteousness, that He would grant to them a godly mind, sound judgment, and virtuous conversation ; continually to think those things which be His, to mind those things which be His, to practise those things which be His, to be occupied in His law day and night, to

remember His commandments, to keep His judgments.

“ Let us beseech for them yet more earnestly, That He would deliver them from every evil and inordinate thing, from every devilish sin, and from every besetment of the adversary, that He would count them worthy in due season of the Regeneration of the Laver, of the remission of sins, of the clothing of incorruption, that He would bless their comings in and goings out, the whole course of their life, their houses and households, that He would increase their children and bless them, and bring them to full age, and teach them wisdom, that He would direct all that is before them unto good.

“ Stand up. Pray, ye Catechumens, for the Angel of peace, that all that is before you may be peaceful ; pray that this day and all the days of your life



Catechumens," he doth no other than excite the whole <sup>2 COR.</sup> multitude of the faithful to pray for them; although the <sup>I. 10, 11.</sup> Catechumens are as yet aliens. For they are not yet of the Body of Christ, they have not yet partaken of the Mysteries, but are still divided from the spiritual flock. But if we ought to intercede for these, much more for our own members. And even therefore he saith, "earnestly let us pray," that thou shouldest not as aliens disown them, that thou shouldest not as strangers disregard them. For as yet they have not the appointed<sup>1</sup> prayer, which Christ brought in; as yet they have <sup>1 νουμισ-</sup> not confidence, but have need of others' aid who have been <sup>μένη</sup> entrusted with the mysteries. For without the king's courts they stand, far from the sacred precincts<sup>2</sup>. Therefore they <sup>2 περι-</sup> are even driven away, whilst those awful prayers are being <sup>βόλων</sup> offered. Therefore also he exhorteth thee to pray for them, that they may become members of thee, that they may be no longer strangers and aliens. For the words, "Let us pray," are not addressed to the priests alone, but also to those that

be full of peace, that your ends may be Christian; commend yourselves to the living God and to His Christ.

"Bow ye the head. All respond aloud, Amen."

A similar Prayer for the Catechumens, with a few variations, is found in the Apostolic Constitutions, lib. viii. cap. 6. Mr. Field considers it to be of later date than that given above.

"Pray, ye Catechumens, and all ye faithful for them pray in heart, saying, Lord, have mercy. And let the deacon speak for them according to his office, saying, For the Catechumens let us all beseech God.

"That the Good [God], the Lover of men, would favourably hearken to their supplications, and prayers, and accepting their suppliant addresses would help them, and grant unto them the requests of their hearts as may be expedient for them, and may reveal unto them the Gospel of His Christ, would enlighten them, and give them understanding, would instruct them in the knowledge of God, would teach them His ordinances and judgments, implant in them His pure and saving fear, would open the ears of their hearts to

be occupied in His law day and night, and confirm them in godliness, would unite them to, and enrol them in, His holy flock, counting them worthy of the Laver of Regeneration, the clothing of incorruption, the true life, and would deliver them from all ungodliness, and give none occasion to the enemy<sup>a</sup> against them, but cleanse them from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, and dwell and walk in them by His Christ, would bless their comings in and goings out, and direct for them all that is before them unto good.

"Let us again earnestly supplicate for them :

"That obtaining remission of their offences by the initiation, they may be counted worthy of the holy mysteries, and remaining amongst the saints.

"Stand up, ye Catechumens. Pray for the peace of God through His Christ, that this day, and all the time of your life, may be peaceful, and without sin, that your ends may be Christian, God merciful and favourable; pray for remission of offences; commend yourselves unto the Only Unbegotten God through His Christ.

"Bow, and receive the blessing."

<sup>a</sup> ἄλλοτριον, literally, the Alien. The word seems to be used in Diodorus and Polybius for hostile, inimical.

HOMIL. make up the people: for when he saith, "Let us stand in  
 II. order<sup>1</sup>: let us pray;" he exhorteth all to the prayer.

<sup>1</sup> Σταῶμεν  
 καλῶς

[7.] Then beginning the prayer, he saith, "That the all-pitying and merciful God would listen to their prayers." For that thou mayest not say, What shall we pray? they are aliens, not yet united [to the body]. Whereby can I constrain<sup>2</sup> the regard of God? Whence can I prevail with Him to impart unto them mercy and forgiveness? That thou mayest not be perplexed with such questions as these, see how he disentangleth thy perplexity, saying, "that the all-pitying and merciful God." Heardest thou? "All-pitying God." Be perplexed no more. For the All-pitying pitieth all, both sinners and friends. Say not then, "How shall I approach Him for them?" Himself will listen to their prayers. And the Catechumens' prayer, what can it be but that they may not remain Catechumens? Next, he suggesteth also the manner of the prayer. And what is this? "That He would open the ears of their hearts;" for they are as yet shut and stopped up. "Ears," he saith, not these which be outward, but those of the understanding, "so as to hear *the things*  
 1 Cor. 2, 9. *which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered*  
 Is. 54, 4. *into the heart of man.*" For they have not heard the untold  
<sup>3</sup> ἀπρό- mysteries; but they stand somewhere at a distance and far  
 ῥήτων off from them; and even if they should hear of them, they know not what is said; for those [mysteries] need much understanding, not hearing only: and the inward ears as yet they have not: wherefore also He next invoketh for them

Is. 50, 4. a Prophet's gift, for the Prophet spoke on this wise; *God*  
 Sept. *giveth me the tongue of instruction, that I should know how to speak a word in season; for He openeth my mouth; He gave to me betimes in the morning; He granted me a hearing ear.* For as the Prophets heard otherwise and more than the many, so also do the faithful than the Catechumens. Hereby the Catechumen also is taught not to learn or hear these things of men, (for He saith, *Call*  
 4 rec. text, *no man master upon the earth*<sup>4</sup>), but from above, from  
 παρὰ τὰ ὀνόματα, Mat. 23, 9. heaven, *For they shall be all taught of God.*  
 Is. 54, 13.

<sup>5</sup> κασθη- Wherefore he says, "And instil<sup>5</sup> them with the word of  
 χήνη truth," so that it may be instilled<sup>6</sup> from within; for as yet they  
<sup>6</sup> ἐκ τῆς  
 εἰς

know not the word of truth as they ought to know. "That He would sow His seed in them." But this is not enough; <sup>2 COR. I. 10, 11, Luke 8, 5.</sup> for *some fell by the way side, and some upon the rock.* But we ask not thus; but as on rich soil the plough openeth the furrows, so we pray it may be here also, that having the fallow ground of their minds<sup>s</sup> tilled deep, they may receive what is dropped upon them, and accurately retain every thing they have heard. Whence also he adds, "And confirm His faith in their minds;" that is, that it may not lie on the surface, but strike its root deep downwards. "That He would unveil to them the Gospel of Righteousness." He sheweth that the veil is twofold, partly that the eyes of their understanding were shut, partly that the Gospel was hidden from them. Whence he said a little above, "that He would open the ears of their hearts," and here, "that He would unveil unto them the Gospel of Righteousness;" that is, both that He would render them wise and apt for receiving<sup>1</sup> seed, <sup>1</sup> *πρὸς ὑποδοχὴν* and that He would teach them and drop the seed into them; for though they should be apt, yet, if God reveal not, this profiteth nothing; and if God should unveil, but they receive not, there resulteth like unprofitableness. Therefore we ask for both: that He would both open their hearts and unveil the Gospel. For neither, if kingly ornaments lie underneath a veil, will it profit at all that the eyes be looking; nor yet that they be laid bare, if the eyes be not waking<sup>2</sup>. <sup>2</sup> *μὴ ἰγρηγοροῦσαν.* But both will be granted, if first they<sup>3</sup> themselves desire it. <sup>3</sup> *i.e. the Catechu- mens.* But what then is "the Gospel of Righteousness?" That which maketh righteous. By these words he leadeth them to the desire of Baptism, shewing that the Gospel is for the working<sup>4</sup> not only of the remission of sins, but also of righteousness. <sup>4</sup> *ποιήσι- κόν.*

[8.] "That He would grant to them a Godly mind, sound judgment, and virtuous conversation<sup>1</sup>." Let such of the faithful attend, as are rivetted<sup>5</sup> to the things of [this] life. <sup>5</sup> *προσηλωμένοι.* For if we are bidden to ask these things for the uninitiated: think in what things we ought to be occupied, who ask these things for others. For the conversation ought to keep pace<sup>6</sup> with<sup>6</sup> the Gospel. Whence surely also the order of the prayer<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> νωθέντας ἐν τῇ βάθει τῆς διανοίας.

<sup>1</sup> νοῦν ἑνθεον, σώφρονα λογισμὸν καὶ ἄριτον πολιτείαν. It is obvious that

"godly" does not come up to the *χρῆς*.

meaning of the original *ἐνθεος*, "into which God is inspired," see below.

<sup>7</sup> *μιλλων. ὁ νόμος τῆς εὐ-*

HOMIL. shifts from the doctrines [of the Gospel] to the conversation:

II.

for to the words, "that He would unveil to them the Gospel of Righteousness;" it hath added, "that He would give unto them a Godly mind." And what is this "Godly?" That Lev. 26, God may dwell in it. For He saith, *I will dwell in them,* 12. *and walk in them;* for when the mind is become righteous, Rom. 6, when it hath put off its sins, it becometh God's dwelling. 16. But when God indwelleth, nothing of man will be left. And thus doth the mind become Godly, speaking every word from Him, even as in truth an house of God dwelling in it. Surely then, the filthy in speech hath not a Godly mind, nor he who delighteth in jesting and laughter.

"Sound judgment." And what can it be to have "a sound judgment?" To enjoy the healthiness that pertaineth to the soul: for he that is held down by wicked lusts, and is dazzled<sup>1</sup> with present things, never can be sound, that is, healthy. But as one who is diseased lusteth even after things which are unfit for him, so also doth he. "And a virtuous conversation," for the doctrines need also conversation [answerable]. Attend to this, ye who come to baptism at the close of life, for we indeed pray that after baptism ye may have also conversation, but thou art seeking and doing thy utmost to depart without any "conversation." For, what, though thou be<sup>2</sup> *δικαιος*, justified<sup>2</sup>: yet is it of faith only. But we pray that thou shouldst have as well the confidence that cometh of good works.

"Continually to think those things which be His, to mind those things which be His, to practise<sup>3</sup> those things which be His:" for we ask not to have sound judgment, and virtuous conversation for one day only, or for two or three, but<sup>4</sup> through the whole tenor and period<sup>4</sup> of our life; and as the foundation of all good things, "to mind those things which be His." For the great majority *seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's*. How then might this be? (For besides prayer, need is that we contribute also our own endeavours.) If we be<sup>5</sup> occupied in His law day and night. Whence he goeth on to ask this also, "to be occupied in His law;" and as he said above, "continually," so here "day and night." Wherefore I even blush for those who scarce once in the year are seen in church. For what excuse can

<sup>1</sup> ἡπτοση-  
μένος.

<sup>2</sup> δικαίος.

<sup>3</sup> μελε-  
σάν.

<sup>4</sup> τοῦ  
βίου καὶ  
τῆς ζωῆς.  
Phil. 2,  
21.

<sup>5</sup> κατα-  
γινώ-  
μιθα.



they have, who are bidden not simply “day and night” to <sup>2</sup> *Cor.* commune with the law, but “to be occupied in,” that is, to <sup>I. 10, 11.</sup> be for ever holding converse with it<sup>1</sup>, and yet scarce do so <sup>1</sup> *προσα- δολισχίῳ* for the smallest fraction of their life?

“To remember His Commandments, to keep His judgments.” Seest thou what an excellent chain is here? and how (7.) each link hangs by the next compacted with more strength and beauty than any chain of gold? For, having asked for a Godly mind, he telleth whereby this may be produced. Whereby? By continually practising<sup>2</sup> it. And how might <sup>2</sup> *μιλε- τῶν.* this be brought about? By constantly giving heed to the Law. And how might men be persuaded to this? If they should keep His Commandments; yea rather, from giving heed to the law cometh also the keeping His Commandments; as likewise from minding the things which be His, and from having a Godly mind, cometh the practising the things which be His. For each of the things mentioned jointly<sup>3</sup> procureth and is procured by the next, both linking<sup>3</sup> *συγκα- τασκειύ- ζει.* it and being linked by it.

[9.] “Let us beseech for them yet more earnestly.” For because, that by length of speaking the soul useth to grow drowsy, he again arouseth it up, for he purposeth to ask again certain great and lofty things. Wherefore he saith, “Let us beseech for them yet more earnestly.” And what is this? “That He would deliver them from every evil and inordinate<sup>4</sup> thing.” Here we ask for them that they may <sup>4</sup> *ἀπό του* not enter into temptation, but be delivered from every snare, a deliverance as well bodily as spiritual<sup>4</sup>. Wherefore also he goeth on to say, “from every devilish sin, and from every <sup>5</sup> *περι- στάσις.* besetment of the adversary,” meaning, temptations and <sup>5</sup> *περι- στάσις.* sins. For sin doth easily beset, taking its stand on every side, before, behind, and so casting us down. For, after telling us what ought to be done by us, namely, to be occupied in His law, to remember His Commandments, to keep His judgments, he assures us next that not even is this enough, except Himself stand by and succour. For, *Ex-Ps. 127,* *cept the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that*<sup>1</sup>. *build it;* and especially in the case of those who are yet

<sup>4</sup> The Benedictine Ed. reads *σωματικῶν τε ἰμοῦ καὶ πνευματικῶν*, every snare both bodily and spiritual.

HOMIL. exposed to the devil, and are under his dominion. And ye  
 II. that are initiated know this well. For call to mind, for

<sup>1</sup> *ἑταρῶν* instance, those words wherein ye renounced<sup>x</sup> his usurped<sup>1</sup>  
 rule, and bent the knee, and deserted to The King, and  
<sup>2</sup> *φρικῶδη* uttered those awful<sup>2</sup> words whereby we are taught in nothing  
 whatever to obey him. But he calleth him adversary and  
 devil [accuser], because he both accuseth God to man and  
 us to God, and us again one to another. For at one time he

Job 1, 9. accused Job to God, saying, *Doth Job serve the Lord for*  
 LXX. *nought?* at another time God to Job, *Fire came down from*  
 ver. 16. *heaven.* And again, God to Adam, when He said that their  
 Gen. 3, eyes would be opened. And to many men at this day, saying,  
 5. that God taketh no care for the visible order of things, but

<sup>3</sup> *δαίμονιν* hath delegated your affairs to demons<sup>3</sup>. And to many of  
 the Jews he accused Christ, calling Him a deceiver and a  
 sorcerer. But perchance some one wisheth to hear in what  
 manner he worketh. When he findeth not a godly mind,  
 findeth not a sound understanding, then, as into a soul left  
 empty, he leads his revel thither<sup>7</sup>; when one remembereth  
 not the commandments of God, nor keepeth His judgments,  
 then he taketh him captive, and departeth. Had Adam, for  
 Gen. 2, instance, remembered the commandment which said, *Of*  
 16. *every tree thou mayest eat;* had he kept the judgment  
 ver. 17. which said, *In the day in which ye eat thereof, then<sup>4</sup> shall*  
 LXX. *ye surely die;* it had not fared with him as it did.  
 om. *ἁότα*.

“That He would count them worthy in due season of the  
 regeneration of the laver, of the remission of sins.” For we  
 ask some things to come now, some to come hereafter; and  
<sup>5</sup> *φιλοσο-* we expound the doctrine<sup>5</sup> of the laver, and in asking in-  
*φούμιν* struct them to know its power. For what is said thence-  
 forth familiarizes them to know already, that what is there  
 done is a regeneration, and that we are born again of the  
 waters, just as of the womb; that they say not after Nico-  
 demus, *How<sup>2</sup> can one be born when he is old? Can he enter*  
*into his mother's womb, and be born again?* Then, because  
 he had spoken of “remission of sins,” he confirmeth this by  
 the words next following, “of the clothing of incorruption;”

<sup>x</sup> See Bingham's Antiq. l. xi. c. 8. text, who gives the authority of three  
 §. 2. &c. Mss.

<sup>7</sup> *ὡς εἰς ἐρήμην κοιμᾶται ψυχὴν.* This <sup>2</sup> John 3, 4. rec. text, *ἄνθρωπος*, not  
 clause is inserted from Mr. Field's *τις*, also *διύτιρον*, not *ἀναθιν*.

for he that putteth on sonship plainly becometh incorruptible. But what is that “in due season?” When any is well disposed, when any cometh thereto with earnestness and faith; for this is the “due season” of the believer.

[10.] “That He would bless their comings in, and their goings out, the whole course of their life.” Here they are directed to ask even for some bodily good, as being yet somewhat weak. “Their houses and their households,” that is, if they have servants or kinsfolk, or any others belonging to them. For these were the rewards of the old Covenant; and nothing then was feared so much as widowhood, childlessness, untimely mournings, to be visited with famine, to have their affairs go on unprosperously. And hence it is, that he alloweth these also to fondly<sup>1</sup> linger over petitions of too temporal<sup>2</sup> a nature, making them mount by little and little to higher things. For so too doth Christ; so too doth Paul, making mention of the older blessings: Christ, when He saith, *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth*; Paul, when he saith, *Honour thy father and thy mother . . . and thou shalt live long on the earth*. “That He would increase their children and bless them, and bring them to full age, and teach<sup>3</sup> them wisdom.” Here again is both a bodily and spiritual thing, as for persons yet but too much babes in disposition. Then what follows is altogether spiritual, “that He would direct all that is before them unto good;” for he saith not simply, “all that is before them,” but, “all that is before them unto good.” For often a journey is before a man, but it is not good; or some other such thing, which is not profitable. Hereby they are taught in every thing to give thanks to God, as happening all for good. After all this, he bids them stand up during what follows. For having before cast them to the ground, when they have asked what they have asked, and have been filled with confidence, now the word<sup>5</sup> given raiseth them up, and biddeth them during what follows engage, for themselves even, in supplication to God. For part we say ourselves, and part we permit them to say, now opening unto them the door of prayer, (exactly as we first teach children [what to say], and then bid them say it of themselves,) saying, “Pray ye, Catechumens, for the angel of peace;” for there is

2 COR.  
I. 10, 11.

<sup>1</sup> ἐμφιλο-  
<sup>2</sup> χροῖν  
<sup>3</sup> σωματι-  
κωτέρας

Matt. 5,  
Eph. 6,  
2. 3.

(8.)  
<sup>3</sup> σοφίση

<sup>4</sup> τὰ προ-  
κείμενα

<sup>5</sup> ὁ λόγος.

HOMIL. an angel that punisheth, as when He saith, *A message by*  
 II. *evil angels*, there is that destroyeth. Wherefore we bid  
 Ps. 77, them ask for the angel of peace, teaching them to seek that  
 49. which is the bond of all good things, peace; so that they  
 LXX. may be delivered from all fightings, all wars, all seditions.  
 "That all that is before you may be peaceful;" for even if a  
 thing be grievous, if a man have peace, it is light. Wherefore

John<sup>14</sup>, Christ also said, *My peace I give unto you*; for the devil  
 27. hath no weapon so strong as fighting, and enmity, and war.

ἱερωικὴν "Pray that this day, and all the days of your life, be full<sup>1</sup> of  
 peace." Seest thou how he again insisteth, that the whole  
 life be passed in virtue? "That your ends be Christian;"  
 your highest good, the honourable and the expedient<sup>a</sup>; for  
 what is not honourable, is not expedient either. For our  
 idea of the nature of expediency is different from that of the  
 many. "Commend yourselves to the living God, and to His  
 Christ;" for as yet we trust them not to pray for others, but  
 ἁγασθῆναι it is a privilege<sup>2</sup> to be able to pray for themselves.

σὸν Seest thou the completeness of this prayer, both in regard  
 of doctrine and of conversation? for when we have mentioned  
 the Gospel, and the clothing of incorruption, and the Laver of  
 Regeneration, we have mentioned all the doctrines: when again  
 we spoke of a Godly mind, a sound understanding, and the  
 3 ἡνῆστῶ- rest of what we said, we suggested<sup>3</sup> the conversation. Then  
 μισθὸς we bid them<sup>b</sup> bow their heads; regarding it as a proof of  
 their prayers being heard, that God blesseth them. For  
 surely it is not a man that blesseth; but by means of his  
 hand and his tongue we bring unto the King Himself the  
 heads of those that are present. And all together shout the  
 "Amen."

Now why have I said all this? To teach you that we  
 ought to seek the things of others, that the faithful may not  
 think it no concern of theirs when these things are said.  
 For not to the walls surely doth the Deacon say, "Let us  
 pray for the Catechumens." But some are so without under-  
 4 διαλα- standing, so stupid, so depraved<sup>4</sup>, as to stand and talk, not  
 λυμένους only during the time of the Catechumens, but also during

<sup>a</sup> Some include the words τὸ καλὸν to the Ἐnergumēni. See de Incompre-  
 hens. Nat. Hom. 3. §. 7. and 4. §. 4.

<sup>b</sup> The same direction was also given

the time of the faithful. Hence all is perverted ; hence all <sup>2 COR.</sup> is utterly lost : for at the very time when we ought most to I. 10, 11. propitiate God, we go away having provoked Him. So again in [the prayers of] the faithful<sup>1</sup>, we are bidden to <sup>1 ἐπὶ τῶν πριστῶν</sup> approach the God that loveth men, for Bishops, for Priests, for Kings, for those in authority, for earth and sea, for temperature<sup>2</sup> of seasons, for the whole world. When then <sup>2 ὅτε ἐξ ἁγίων</sup> we who ought to have such confidence [toward God] as to pray for others, are scarce awake even whilst praying for ourselves, how can we excuse ourselves? how find pardon? Wherefore I beseech you, that laying all this to heart, ye would know the time of prayer, and be lifted up and disengaged from earth, and touch the vault itself of heaven ; so that we may have power to make God propitious, and obtain the good things promised, whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ ; with Whom unto the Father, together with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.



## HOMILY III.

### 2 COR. i. 12.

*For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and<sup>a</sup> sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom, but in the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world.*

HERE again he openeth to us yet another ground of comfort, and that not small, yea rather, exceeding great, and well fitted to upraise a mind sinking<sup>1</sup> under perils. For seeing he had said, God comforted us<sup>b</sup>, and, God delivered us, and had ascribed all to His mercies and their prayers, lest he should thus make the hearer supine, presuming on God's mercy only and the prayers of others, he sheweth that they themselves<sup>2</sup> had contributed not a little of their<sup>3</sup> own. And indeed he shewed as much even before, when he said, *For as the sufferings of Christ abound [in us,] so our consolation also aboundeth.* But here he is speaking of a certain other good work, properly their own<sup>4</sup>, besides. What then is this? That, saith he, in a conscience pure and without guile, we have our conversation every where in the world: and this availeth not a little to our encouragement and comfort; yea, rather, not to comfort merely, but even unto somewhat else far greater than comfort, even to our rejoicing. And this he said, teaching them too not to sink down in their afflictions; but, if so be they have a pure conscience, even to glory therein, and at the same time quietly though<sup>5</sup> gently

<sup>1</sup> βαπτίζομένην.  
<sup>2</sup> i. e. the Apostles.  
<sup>3</sup> οἱ παθόντες. ver. 5.  
<sup>4</sup> οἱ κτῶν κατ' ὅσον μα.  
<sup>5</sup> ἡρεσίμα καὶ ἀπαπτόμενος.

<sup>a</sup> The rec. text has εὐλαβείᾳ θεοῦ. is inserted by Mr. Field on the authority of two ancient MSS.  
Chrysostom omits θεοῦ.

<sup>b</sup> The clause "God comforted us,"

hitting at the false Apostles. And as in the former Epistle <sup>2 Cor.</sup> he saith, *Christ sent me to preach the Gospel, not with* <sup>I. 12.</sup> *wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of* <sup>1 Cor.</sup> *none effect: and, that your faith should not stand in the* <sup>ib. 2, 5.</sup> *wisdom of men, but in the power of God; so here also, Not in wisdom, but in the grace of Christ.*

And he hinted also something besides, by employing the words, *not with wisdom*, that is, ‘not with deceit,’ here too striking at the heathen discipline<sup>1</sup>. *For our rejoicing*, saith <sup>1</sup> *he, is this, the testimony of our conscience;* that is, our conscience not having whereof to condemn us, as if for evil doings we were persecuted. For though we suffer countless horrors, though from every quarter we be shot at, and in peril, it is enough for our comfort, yea rather not only for comfort, but even for our crowning, that our conscience is pure, and testifieth unto us that for no evil-doing, but for that which is well-pleasing to God, we thus suffer; for virtue’s sake, for heavenly wisdom’s, for the salvation of the many. Now that previous consolation was from God: but this was contributed by themselves, and from the purity of their life. Wherefore also he calls it their *rejoicing*<sup>2</sup>, be- <sup>2</sup> *cause it was the achievement of their own virtue.* What <sup>“boast”</sup> *then is this rejoicing, and what doth our conscience testify* <sup>καύχησις</sup> *unto us? That in sincerity,* that is to say, having no deceitful thing, no hypocrisy, no dissimulation, no flattery, no ambush or guile, nor any other such thing, but in all frankness, in simplicity, in truth, in a pure and unmalicious spirit, in a guileless mind, having nothing concealed, no inly rankling sore<sup>3</sup>. *Not with fleshly wisdom;* that is, not with evil <sup>3</sup> *artifice, nor with wickedness, nor with cleverness of words,* <sup>ὑπόβουλον.</sup> *nor with webs of sophistries, for this he meaneth by ‘fleshly wisdom:’* and that, whereupon they<sup>4</sup> greatly prided them- <sup>4</sup> *selves, he disclaims and thrusts aside: shewing very super-* <sup>i. e. the</sup> *abundantly<sup>5</sup> that this is no worthy ground for glorying: and* <sup>false</sup> *that not only he doth not seek it, but even rejecteth and is* <sup>Apostles</sup> *ashamed of it.* <sup>ἐκ πάλ-  
λοῦ τοῦ  
πριόντος</sup>

*But in the grace of God we have had our conversation in the world.*

What is, *in the grace of God?* Displaying the wisdom, that is from Him, the power from Him given unto us, by

HOMIL. the signs wrought, by overcoming sages, rhetoricians,  
 III. philosophers, kings, populates, unlearned as we are, and bringing with us nothing of the wisdom that is without. No ordinary comfort and rejoicing, however, was this, to be conscious to themselves that it was not men's power they had used; but that by Divine grace they had achieved all success.

[*In the world<sup>c</sup>.*] So not in Corinth only, but also in every part of the world.

*And more abundantly to you-ward.* What more abundantly to you-ward? *In the grace of God we have had our conversation.* For we shewed both signs and wonders amongst you, and greater strictness<sup>1</sup>, and a life unblameable; for he calls these too the grace of God, ascribing his own good works also unto it. For in Corinth he even outleapt the goal<sup>2</sup>, making the Gospel without charge, because he spared their weakness.

<sup>1</sup> ἀκρί-  
βειων.

<sup>2</sup> τὰ  
σκάμ-  
ματα  
ὑπερέβη.

Ver. 13. *For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read, or acknowledge.*

For, since he spoke great things of himself, and seemed to be bearing witness of himself, an odious thing, he again appeals to them as witnesses of what he says. For, he saith, let no one think that what I say is a boastful flourish of writing; for we declare unto you what ye yourselves know; and that we lie not, ye more than all others can bear us witness. For, when ye read, ye acknowledge, that what ye are conscious of our performing in our actions, this we say also in our writings, and your testimony doth not contradict our epistles; but the knowledge which ye had before of us is in harmony with your reading.

Ver. 14. *As also ye have acknowledged us in part.*

For your knowledge of us, he saith, is not from hearsay, but from actual experience. The words *in part* he added, from humility. For this is his wont, when necessity constraineth him to say any highsounding thing, (for he never doth so otherwise,) as desiring quickly to repress again the

<sup>3</sup> συστήλ- elation<sup>3</sup> arising from what he had said.

λιν τὸν  
ὀγκον.

*And I trust ye shall acknowledge even to the end.*

(2.)

[2.] Seest thou again how from the past he draws pledges

<sup>c</sup> These words are not found in the MSS, though the commentary seems to require them. If they are omitted, there is no stop.



for the future; and not from the past only, but also from the <sup>2</sup> COR. I. 13, 14. power of God? For he affirmed not absolutely, but cast the whole upon God, and his trust in Him.

*That we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are ours, in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.* R.T.om. 'our' and 'Christ.'

Here he cuts at the root<sup>1</sup> of the envy, that his speech <sup>1</sup> ὑποτίμνεται. might occasion, by making them sharers and partners in the glory of his good works. 'For these stick not with us, but pass over unto you also, and again from you to us.' For seeing he had extolled himself, and produced proof of the past, and given security for the future<sup>2</sup>; lest his hearers should <sup>2</sup> ἐν γ-γυήσατο. reflect on him for talking proudly, or, as I have said, be hurried to enviousness, he makes the rejoicing a common one, and declares that this crown of praises is theirs. For if, he says, we have shewn ourselves to be such ones, our praise is your glory: even as when ye also are approved, we rejoice and leap for joy, and are crowned. Here also again he discovers his great humility by what he says. For he so levels his expressions, not as a master discoursing to disciples, but as a disciple unto fellow-disciples of his own rank. And observe how he lifts them on high, and fills them with philosophy, sending them on to That Day. For, he saith, tell me not of the present things, that is, the reproaches, the revilings, the scoffings of the many, for the things here are no great matter, neither their good things, nor their painful; nor the scoffings, nor the praises which come from men: but remember, I pray, that day of fear and shuddering, in the which all things are revealed. For then both we shall glory in you, and ye in us; when ye shall be seen to have such teachers, who teach no doctrine of men, nor live in wickedness, nor give [men] any handle; and we to have such disciples, neither affected after the manner of men, nor shaken, but taking all things with readiness of mind, and unseduced by sophistries<sup>3</sup> from what <sup>3</sup> μηδ-μὴ ἐν παραλο-γιζομί-νους. side soever. For this is plain even now to those that have understanding, but then to all. So that even if we are afflicted now, we have this, and that no light, consolation, which the conscience affordeth now, and the manifestation itself then. For now indeed our conscience knoweth that we do all things by the grace of God, as ye also know, and shall know: but then, all men as well, will learn both our

HOMIL. doings and yours: and shall behold us glorified through each  
 III. other. For that he may not appear himself alone to derive lustre from this rejoicing, he gives to them also a cause of glorying, and leads them away from their present distresses. And as he did in respect to the consolation, when he  
 ver. 6. said, *We are comforted for your sakes*, so he does here also, saying, ‘we rejoice on your account, as ye also on ours,’ every where making them partakers of every thing, of his comfort, his sufferings, his preservation. For this his preservation he ascribes to their prayers. *For God delivered us*, he saith, *ye helping together by prayer*. In like manner also he makes the rejoicings common. For as in that place he says, *Knowing that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so also of the consolation*; so here too, *we are your rejoicing, as ye also are ours*.

Ver. 15. *And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before.*

What confidence? ‘In relying exceedingly on you, rejoicing over you, being your rejoicing, loving you exceedingly, being conscious to myself of nothing evil, being confident that all is spiritual with us, and having you as witnesses of this.’

*I was minded to come unto you, and to pass by you into Macedonia.*

And yet he promised the contrary in his former Epistle, saying thus: *Now I will come unto you when I have passed through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia*. How is it then that he here says the contrary? He doth not say the contrary: away with the thought. For it is contrary indeed to what he wrote, but not contrary to what he wished.

Wherefore also here he said not, ‘I wrote that I would pass by you into Macedonia; but, *I was minded*. For though I did not write on that wise,’ he says, ‘still, nevertheless, I was greatly desirous, and *was minded*, even before, to have come unto you: so far was I from wishing to be later than my promise, that I would gladly have come before it.’  
 1 *χαρίν*. *That ye might have a second benefit*<sup>1</sup>. What is, a second benefit? ‘That ye might have a double benefit, both that from my writings, and that from my presence.’ By *benefit*  
 2 *χαράν*. he here means pleasure<sup>2</sup>.

Ver. 16, 17. *And to pass by you into Macedonia, and to* <sup>2 COR.</sup>  
*come again out of Macedonia unto you, and of you to be* <sup>I. 16.17.</sup>  
*brought on my way toward Judæa. When I therefore was*  
*thus<sup>a</sup> minded, did I use lightness?*

[3.] Here, in what follows, he directly does away with the (3.)  
charge arising out of his delay and absence. For what he  
says is of this nature. *I was minded to have come unto you.*  
*‘Wherefore then did I not come? Is it as light-minded, and*  
*changeable?’ for this is, did I use lightness? By no means.*  
*But wherefore? Because what things I purpose, I purpose*  
*not according to the flesh. What is, not according to the*  
*flesh? I purpose not ‘carnally.’*

Ver. 17. *That with me should be yea, yea, and nay,*  
*nay.*

But still this too is obscure. What is it then he says?  
The carnal man, that is, he that is rivetted to the present  
things and is continually occupied in them, and is without  
the sphere of the Spirit’s influence, has power to go every  
where, and to wander whithersoever he will. But he that is  
the servant of the Spirit, and is led, and led about of Him,  
cannot every where be lord of his own purpose, having made  
it dependent upon the authority thence given; but it so fares  
with him as if a trusty servant, whose motions are always  
ruled by his lord’s biddings, and who has no power over  
himself, nor is able to rest even a little, should make  
some promise to his fellow-servants, and then, because his  
master would have it otherwise, should fail to perform his  
promise. This then is what he means by, *I purpose not*  
*according to the flesh.* I am not beyond the Spirit’s govern-  
ance, nor have liberty to go where I will. For I am subject  
to lordship and commands, the Comforter’s, and by His  
decrees I am led, and led about. For this cause I was  
unable to come, for it was not the Spirit’s will. As happened  
also frequently in the Acts; for when he had purposed to come  
to one place, the Spirit bade him go to another. So that it  
was not from lightness, that is, fickleness in me that I came  
not, but that, being subject to the Spirit, I obeyed Him.  
Didst mark again his accustomed logic<sup>1</sup>? That by which <sup>1</sup> *σύνθησις*  
they thought to prove that *he purposed according to the flesh,* <sup>2</sup> *θιῶξεμα.*

<sup>a</sup> Chrysostom, *βουλόμενος*. Received text, *βουλεύμενος*.

HOMIL. namely, the non-fulfilment of his promise, he uses as the  
III.

special proof that he purposed according to the Spirit, and that the contrary had been purposing according to the flesh. What then? saith one: was it not with the Spirit that he promised what he did? By no means. For I have already said that Paul did not foreknow every thing that was to happen, or was expedient. And it is for this reason that he says in the former Epistle, *that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I may go*; entertaining this very fear, that after he had said, 'into Judæa,' he might be compelled to go elsewhere; but now when his intention had been frustrated, he says it, *And of you be brought on my way toward Judæa*. So much as was of love, he states, namely, the coming to them; but that which had no reference to them, his going, namely, from them into Judæa, he doth not add definitively. When however he had been proved wrong<sup>1</sup>, he afterwards says here boldly, *toward Judæa*. And this too befel for good, lest any among them should conceive of them<sup>2</sup> more highly than they deserved. For if in the face of these things they wished to sacrifice bulls to them, upon what impiety would they not have driven, had they not given many instances of human weakness? And why marvel, if he knew not all things that were to happen, seeing that oftentimes he even in prayers knoweth not what is expedient.

Rom. 8, 26. *For*, saith he, *we know not what we should pray for as we ought*. And that he may not seem to be speaking modestly, he not only saith this, but instances wherein he knew not in prayers what was expedient. Wherein then was it? When he entreated to be delivered from those temptations, saying, 2 Cor. 12, 7—9. *There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness*. Seest thou how he knew not to ask what was expedient, and so although he asked often, he obtained not.

Ver. 18. *But as God is faithful, our word toward you was not yea and nay*.

He skilfully overturns a rising objection. For one might say, If after having promised, thou hast put off coming, and yea is not yea, and nay nay, with thee, but what thou

sayest now thou unsayest afterwards, as thou didst in the case of this journey: woe is unto us, if at all this were the case in the Preaching too. Now lest they should have these thoughts, and be troubled thereat, he says, *But as God is faithful, our word toward you was not yea and nay.* This, saith he, was not the case in the Preaching, but only in our travels and journeyings; whereas whatever things we have said in our preaching, these abide stedfast and unmoveable, (for he calleth his preaching here, *word*.) Then he bringeth proof of this that cannot be gainsaid, by referring all to God. What he saith is this; ‘the promise of my coming was my own, and I gave that promise from myself: but the preaching is not my own, nor of man, but of God, and what is of God it is impossible should lie.’ Whereupon also he said, *God is faithful*, that is, *true*. ‘Mistrust not then what is from Him, for there is nought of man in it.’

[4.] And seeing he had said *word*, he adds what follows to explain what kind of word he means. Of what kind then is it? (4.)

Ver. 19. *For the Son of God*, saith he, *Who was preached among you by us, even by me, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, was not yea and nay.*

For on this account he brings before them the company of the teachers also, as thence too giving credibility to the testimony by those who taught, and not who heard it only. And yet they were disciples; however, in his modesty, he counts them as in the rank of teachers. But what is, *was not yea and nay*? I have never, he saith, unsaid what before I said in the Preaching. My discourse to you was not now this, now that. For this is not of faith, but of an erring mind.

*But in Him was yea.* That is, just as I said, the word abideth unshaken and stedfast.

Ver. 20. *For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*

What is this, *all the promises of God*? The Preaching promised many things; and these many things they professed and preached. For they discoursed of being raised again, and of being taken up, and of incorruption, and of those great rewards, and unspeakable goods. As to these promises then, he saith that they abide inmoveable, and in them was no yea and nay, that is, the things spoken were not



HOMIL. now true, and now false, as was the case about my being  
III. with you, but always true. And first indeed he contends for  
 1 δογμα- the articles<sup>1</sup> of the faith, and the word concerning Christ,  
 των. saying, *My word*, and my preaching, *was not yea and nay*; next, for the promises, *for all the promises of God in Him are yea*. But if the things He promised are sure, and he will certainly give them, much more is He Himself, and the word concerning Him, sure, and it can not be said that He is now, and now is not, but He *always* is, and is the same. But what is, *In Him are yea, and Amen*. He signifies that which shall certainly be. For in Him, not in man, the promises have their realization and fulfilment. Fear not, therefore; for it is not man, so that thou shouldest mistrust; but it is God Who both said and fulfilleth. *Unto the glory of God by us*. What is, *unto [His] glory by us*? He fulfilleth them by us, that is, and<sup>2</sup> by His benefits towards us unto His glory; for this is *for the glory of God*. But if they be for the glory of God, they will certainly come to pass. For His own glory He will not think little of, even did He think little of our salvation. But as it is, He thinketh not little of our salvation either, both because He loveth mankind exceedingly, and because our salvation is bound up with His glory from these things accruing. So that if the promises are for His glory, our salvation also will certainly follow; to which also, in the Epistle to the Ephesians, he reverteth continually, saying, *to the maintenance of His glory*<sup>d</sup>; and every where he layeth down this, and shews the necessity of this result. And in this regard he here saith, that His promises lie not: for they not only save us, but also glorify Him. Dwell not on this therefore, that they were promised by us; and so doubt. For they are not fulfilled by us, but by Him. Yea, and the promises were by Him; for we spoke not to you our own words, but His.

<sup>2</sup> Ben.  
omits  
"and."

Eph. 1,  
14.

Ver. 21, 22. *Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

Again, from the past He establisheth the future. For if it is He that stablisheth us in Christ; (i. e. who suffereth us

<sup>d</sup> Rec. text, *εις ἀπολύτρωσιν τῆς περιποιήσεως, εἰς ἔπαυσιν τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ*. Chrys. *εις περιποίησιν τῆς δ. ἀ.*



not to be shaken from the faith which is in Christ;) and <sup>2 COR.</sup> He that hath anointed us, and given the Spirit in our hearts, 1.21.22. how shall He not give us the future things?

For if He hath given the principles, and the foundations, and the root, and the fount, (to wit, the true knowledge of Him, the partaking of the Spirit,) how shall He not give the things that come of these: for if for the sake of these<sup>e</sup> those are given, much more will He<sup>f</sup> supply those. And if to such as were enemies he gave these, much more when now made friends will He *freely give* to them those. Wherefore He said not simply "the Spirit," but named "earnest," that from this thou mightest have a good hope of the whole as well. For did He not purpose to give the whole, He would never have chosen to give *the earnest*, and to waste it without object or result. And observe Paul's candour. For why need I say, saith he, that the truth of the promises standeth not in us? The fact of your standing unwavering and fixed, is not in us, but this too is of God; *for*, saith he, *He who stablisheth us is God*. We then are not they who strengthen you: for even we also need Him that stablisheth. So then let none imagine that the Preaching is hazarded in us. He hath engaged for the whole, He careth for the whole.

And what is, *hath anointed*, and *sealed*? Hath given the Spirit, by Whom He hath done both these things, making at once prophets, and priests, and kings, for in old times these three sorts were anointed. But we have not now one of these dignities, but all three preeminently. For we are both to enjoy a kingdom, and are made priests by offering our bodies for a sacrifice, (for, saith he, *present your members a living sacrifice acceptable unto God*;) and withal we are constituted prophets too; for what things *eye hath not seen*, <sup>1 COR.</sup> *nor ear heard*, these have been revealed unto us. <sup>2, 9.</sup>

[5.] And in another way too we become kings: if we have <sup>MORAL.</sup> the mind to get dominion over our unruly thoughts, for that such an one is a king, and more than he who weareth the diadem, I will now make plain to you. He hath many armies,

<sup>e</sup> St. Chrysostom plainly means by "these," not what was last mentioned, but what they are to lead to. There are other instances in his writings of similar inaccuracies.

<sup>f</sup> The Ben. and other Editions insert some words, "much more will He who gave these supply these also."

<sup>g</sup> Rom. 12, 1. where the Rec. text has *σώματα*, not *μίλην*, as St. Chrysos. reads.

HOMIL. but we again have thoughts exceeding them in number;  
 III. for it is impossible to number the infinite multitude of the thoughts within us. Nor is their multitude all one is to consider, but besides, that in this multitude of thoughts, there are many generals, and colonels, and captains, and archers, and slingers. What else makes a king? His apparel? But this one too is arrayed in a better and braver robe, which neither doth moth devour, nor age impair. A crown too he hath of curious workmanship<sup>1</sup>, that of glory, that of the tender mercies of God. For saith [the Psalmist], *Bless Ps. 103, the Lord, O my soul, that crowneth thee with pity and 2. 4. Ps. 8, 6. tender mercies.* Again, that of glory: *For Thou hast crowned Ps. 5, 12. him with glory and honour. And with favour Thou hast LXX. crowned us as with a shield.* Again, that of grace: *For 9. LXX. thou shalt receive a crown of grace upon thy head.* Seest thou this diadem of many wreaths, and surpassing the other in grace. But let us institute anew and from the beginning a stricter inquiry into the condition of these kings. That king hath dominion over his guards, and issues orders to all, and all obey him and serve him; but here I shew you greater authority. For the number here are as great or even greater; it remains to inquire into their obedience. And bring me not forth those that have ruled amiss, since I too  
 Iεκπιστον  
 τας.  
 bring those that have been driven from their kingdom, and have been murdered by their very body guards. Let us not then bring forth these instances, but seek for those who in either kind have ordered well their kingdom. And do thou put forward whom thou wilt; I oppose unto thee the patriarch against all. For when he was commanded to sacrifice his son, consider how many thoughts then rose up against him. Nevertheless, he brought all under submission, and all trembled at terror of him, more than at a king his guards; and with a look only he stilled them all, and not one of them dared so much as mutter; but down they bowed, and as unto a king gave place, one and all, though much exasperated, and exceeding desperate. For even the heads of spears all upright raised by many soldiers are not as fearful, as were then those fearful thoughts, armed not with spears, but what is harder<sup>1</sup> to deal with than many spears, the sympathy of nature! Wherefore they had power

<sup>1</sup> χαλεπώτερον

to pierce his soul more than sharpened spear point. For <sup>2 COR.</sup> never spear could be so sharp as were the goads of those <sup>I. 21, 22.</sup> thoughts, which, sharpened and upraised from beneath, from his bowels, were piercing through and through the mind of that righteous man. For here there needs time, and purpose, and a stroke, and pain, and then death follows; but there, there needed none of these, so much were the wounds speedier and acuter. But still, though so many thoughts were then in arms against him, there was a deep calm, and they stood all in fair array; adorning rather than daunting him. See him at least stretching out the knife, and set forth as many as thou wilt, kings, emperors, Cæsars, yet shalt thou tell of nought like this, have no like mien to point to, so noble, so worthy of the heavens. For that righteous man erected a trophy at that moment over the most arbitrary of tyrannies. For nothing is so tyrannical as nature; and find ten thousand tyrannicides, one like this shalt thou never shew us. For it was the triumph in that moment of an angel, not a man. For consider. Nature was dashed on earth with all her weapons, with all her host: and he stood with outstretched hand, grasping not a crown, but a knife more glorious than any crown, and the throng of angels applauded, and God from heaven proclaimed him conqueror.

For seeing that his citizenship was in heaven, thence also <sup>Phil. 3.</sup> he received that proclamation. What could be more glorious <sup>20.</sup> than this? rather, what trophy could ever be equal to this trophy? For if on occasion of a wrestler's success, not a herald below, but the king above, should have risen up, and himself proclaimed the Olympic Victor, would not this have seemed to him more glorious than the crown, and have turned the gaze of the whole theatre upon him? When then no mortal king, but God Himself, not in this theatre, but in the theatre of the universe, in the assembly of the angels, the archangels, proclaimeth his name with uplifted voice shouting from heaven, tell me what place shall we assign to this holy man?

[6.] But if you will, let us listen too to the voice itself. What then was the voice? *Abraham, Abraham, lay* <sup>Gen. 22,</sup> *not thy hand upon Isaac, neither do thou any thing unto* <sup>11. 12.</sup> *him. For now I know that thou fearest God, and hast not spared thy son, thy well-beloved, for My sake. What is*

HOMIL. this? He that knoweth all things before they are, did He  
 III. *now* know! And yet even to man the Patriarch's<sup>1</sup> fear of  
 1 τὰ νῦν ὅτι.

God was evident: so many proofs had he given, that his  
 2 τῇς περὶ  
 τὸν Θεὸν  
 εὐνοίας. heart was right toward God<sup>2</sup>, as when He said to him, *Get  
 Gen. 12,* thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred; when for His  
 1. sake and the honour due to Him he relinquished to his sister's

son his priority, when He delivered him out of so great perils;  
 when He bade him go into Egypt, and on his wife's being  
 taken from him, he repined not, and more instances besides;  
 and as I said, from these things even man would have learned  
 the Patriarch's fear of God, much more then God, Who  
 waiteth not for the acts to know the end. And how too

Gen. 15. justified He him, if He knew not? For it is written, *Abraham  
 6. believed, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

Rom. 4, 3. What then means this, *Now I know*? The Syriac hath,  
*Now thou hast made known*; that is, to men. For I knew of  
 old, even before all those commandments. And why, to  
 men even, *now*? for were not those acts enough to prove  
 his mind was right toward God? They were enough indeed,  
 but this one so much greater than them all, that they appear  
 nothing beside it. As exalting then this good work, and  
 shewing its superiority to all, He so spake. For of things which  
 exceed and surpass all that went before, most men are wont  
 to speak so: for instance, if one receive from another a gift  
 greater than any former one, he often says, "Now I know that  
 such an one loves me," not hereby meaning, that he knew not  
 in the time past, but as intending to declare what is now  
 given to be greater than all. So also God, speaking after  
 the manner of men, saith, *Now I know*, intending only to  
 mark the exceeding greatness of the exploit; not that He  
 then came to know either his fear or the greatness of it.

Gen. 11, 7; 18, 21. For when He saith, *Come, let Us go down and see*, He saith  
 it not as needing to go down, (for He both filleth all things,  
 and knoweth all things certainly,) but so as teaching us not

Ps. 14, 2. to give sentence lightly. And when He saith, *The Lord  
 looked down from Heaven*: it describeth His perfect know-  
 ledge by a metaphor taken from men. So also here He  
 saith, *Now I know*, to declare this to be greater than all  
 which had preceded it. Of this itself too He furnisheth proof  
 by adding, *Because thou sparedst not thy son, thy well-*



*beloved, for My sake*; He saith not *thy son* only, but yet more, <sup>2 COR. I. 22.</sup> *thy well-beloved*. For he was not his son by nature only, but also by parental fondness, which having both by natural disposition, and by the great goodness of his child, he yet dared in him to spurn<sup>1</sup>. And if about worthless children <sup>1 κατε- σόλμηνεν</sup> parents are not easily indifferent, but mourn even for them; when it is his son, his true son, his only-begotten, and his well-beloved, even Isaac, and the father himself is on the point of immolating him; who can describe the excessiveness of such philosophy? This exploit outshineth thousands of diadems, and crowns innumerable. For the wearer of that crown, both death oftentimes assaileth and annoyeth, and before death, assaults of circumstances without number; but this diadem shall no one have strength to take from him that weareth it; no not even after death; neither of his own household, nor of strangers. And let me point you out the costliest stone in this diadem. For as a costly stone, so this comes at the end and clasps it. What then is this? the words, *for My sake*? for not herein is the marvel, that he spared not, but that it was *for His sake*.

Oh! blessed right hand, of what a knife was it accounted worthy? oh! wondrous knife, of what a right hand was it accounted worthy? Oh! wondrous knife, for what a purpose was it prepared? to what an office did it serve? to what a type did it minister? How was it bloodied? how was it not bloodied? For I know not what to say, so awful was that mystery. It touched not the neck of the child, nor passed through the throat of that holy one: nor was crimsoned with the blood of the righteous; rather it both touched, and passed through, and was crimsoned, and was bathed in it, yet was not bathed. Perchance I seem to you beside myself; uttering such contradictions. For, in truth, I am beside myself, with the thought of the wondrous deed of that righteous man; but I utter no contradictions. For indeed the righteous man's hand thrust it in the throat of the lad, but God's Hand suffered it not, so thrust, to be stained with blood of the lad. For it was not Abraham alone that held it back, but God also; and he by his purpose gave the stroke, God by His voice restrained it. For the same voice both <sup>2 Ben. "check- ed."</sup> armed and disarmed<sup>2</sup> that right hand, which, marshalled

HOMIL. under God, as if under a leader, performed all things at  
 III. His beck, and all were ministered at His voice. For observe; He said, "Slay," and straightway it was armed: He said, "Slay not," and straightway it was disarmed: for every thing [before] had been fully prepared.

And now God shewed the soldier and general to the whole world; this crowned victor, to the theatre of the angels; this priest, this king, crowned with that knife beyond a diadem, this trophy-bearer, this champion, this conqueror without a fight. For as if some general, having a most valiant soldier, should use his mastery of his weapons, his bearing, his ordered movements<sup>1</sup> to dismay the adversary; so also God, by the purpose, the attitude, the bearing only of that righteous man, dismayed and routed the common enemy of us all, the Devil. For I deem that even he then shrunk away aghast. But if any one say, 'And why suffered He not that right hand to be bathed, and why did He not then forthwith raise him up after being sacrificed?' Because God might not accept such bloody offerings; such board were that of avenging demons. But here two things were displayed, both the lovingkindness of the Master, and the faithfulness of the servant. And before, indeed, he went out from his country: but then he abandoned even nature. Wherefore also he received his principal with usury: and very reasonably. For he chose to lose the name of father, to shew himself a faithful servant. Wherefore he became not a father only, but also a priest; and because for God's sake he gave up his own, therefore also did God give him with these His own besides. When then enemies devise mischief, He allows it to come even to the trial, and then works miracles; as in the case of the furnace and the lions; but when Himself biddeth, readiness<sup>2</sup> attained, He stayeth His bidding. What then, I ask, was wanting further in this noble deed? For did Abraham foreknow what would happen? Did he bargain for the mercy of God? For even though he were a prophet; yet the prophet knoweth not all things. So the actual sacrifice afterwards was superfluous, and unworthy of God. And if it was fit he should learn that God was able to raise from the dead, by the womb he had learnt this much more marvellously, or rather he learnt it even before that proof, for he had faith.

<sup>1</sup> ῥυθμοῖν  
 Ben.  
 ῥώμης.

Dan. 3,  
 and 6.

<sup>2</sup> μίχρῃ  
 πρὸς  
 μίαν.

(7.)



[7.] Dothou then, not admire this righteous man only, but also imitate him, and when thou seest him amid so great uproar and surge of waves sailing as in a calm, take thou in hand in like way the helm of obedience and fortitude. For look, pray, not only at this, that he built up the altar and the wood; but remember too the voice of the lad, and reflect what hosts like snow storms<sup>1</sup> assaulted him to dismay him, when he heard the lad say, *My father, where is the lamb?* Bethink thee how many thoughts were then stirred up armed not with iron, but with darts of flame; and piercing into and cutting him through on every side. If even now many, and those not parents, are moved to pity<sup>2</sup>, and would have wept, did they not know the end: and many, I see, do weep, though they know it; what must it be thought he would feel, who begat, who nurtured him, in old age had him, had him only, him such an one, who sees, who hears him, and is presently about to slay him? What understanding in the words! What meekness in the question! Who then is here at work? The Devil, that he might set nature in a flame? God forbid! but God, the more to prove the golden soul of the righteous man. For when indeed the wife of Job speaks, a Devil is at work. For of such sort the advice is. But this one uttereth nothing blasphemous, but what is both very devout and thoughtful; and great the grace that overspread the words, much the honey that dropped therefrom, flowing from a calm and gentle soul. Even a heart of stone these words were enough to soften. But they turned not aside, nay, shook not that adamant. Nor said he, 'Why callest thou him father, who in a little while will not be thy father, yea, who hath already lost that title of honour?' And why doth the lad ask the question? Not of impertinence merely, not of curiosity, but as anxious about what was purposed. For he reflected that had his father not meant to make him part in what was done, he would not have left the servants below, and taken him only with him. For this reason, too, surely, it is, that when they were alone, then he asks him, when none heard what was said. So great was the judgment of the lad. Are ye not all warmed towards him, both men and women? Doth not each one of you mentally infold and kiss the child, and marvel at his judgment; and venerate

2 COR.  
I. 22.

<sup>1</sup> νιφάδες  
στρατο-  
πέδων.

<sup>2</sup> κατα-  
κλῶνται.

**HOMIL.** the piety which, when he was both bound and laid on the wood,  
**III.** made him not be dismayed, nor struggle, nor accuse his father as mad; but he was even bound, and lifted up, and laid upon it, and endured all in silence, like a lamb, yea, rather like the common Lord of all. For of Him he both imitated the

**Is. 53, 7.** gentleness, and kept to the type. For *He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep dumb before his shearer.* And yet Isaac spake; for his Lord spake also. How dumb then? This meaneth, he spake nothing wilful or harsh, but all was sweet and mild, and the words more than the silence manifested his gentleness. For Christ also said,

**John 18, 23.** *If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why smitest thou Me?* and manifested His gentleness more than if He had held His peace. And as this one speaketh with his father from the altar, so too doth He from the Cross, saying, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what*

**ver. 8.** *they do.* What then said the Patriarch? *God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.* Either uses the names of nature; the former, father; the latter, son; and on either side arduous is the war stirred up, and mighty the storm, and yet wreck no where: for religion<sup>1</sup> triumphed over all. Then after he heard of God, he spoke no further word, nor was impertinently curious<sup>2</sup>. Of such judgment was the child even in the very bloom of youth.

<sup>1</sup> φιλο-  
σοφία.

<sup>2</sup> περι-  
γύσαστο.

Seest thou the king, over how many armies, in how many battles which beset him, he hath been victorious? For the barbarians were not so fearful to the city of Jerusalem, when they assaulted her oftentimes, as were to this man the thoughts on every side besieging him: but still he overcame all. Wouldest thou see the priest also? The instance is at hand. For when thou hast seen him with fire and a knife; and standing over an altar, what doubtest thou after as to his priesthood? But if thou wouldest see the sacrifice also, lo, here a twofold one. For he offered a son, he offered also a ram, yea, more and above all, his own will. And with the blood of the lamb he consecrated his right hand<sup>a</sup>, with the sacrifice of his son, his soul. Thus was he ordained a priest, by the blood of his only-begotten, by

<sup>a</sup> In Levitical consecrations, the thumb of the priest's right hand was sprinkled with blood. Lev. 8, 23.

the sacrifice of a lamb; for the priests also were consecrated <sup>2 COR.</sup>  
by the blood of the victims which were offered to God. <sup>I. 22.</sup>  
Wouldest thou see the prophet also? It is written, *Your* <sup>Levit. 8.</sup>  
*father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it, and* <sup>John 8,</sup>  
*was glad.* <sup>56.</sup>

So also art thou thyself made king and priest and prophet in the Laver; a king, having dashed to earth all the deeds of wickedness, and slain thy sins; a priest, in that thou offerest thyself to God, and having sacrificed thy body, and being thyself slain also, *for if we died with Him*, saith <sup>2 Tim.</sup>  
he, *we shall also live with Him*; a prophet, knowing what <sup>2, 11.</sup>  
shall be, and being inspired of God<sup>1</sup>, and sealed<sup>b</sup>. For as <sup>1 2vθous</sup>  
upon soldiers a seal, so is also the Spirit put upon the faithful. And if thou desert, thou art manifest [by it] to all. For the Jews had circumcision for a seal, but we, the earnest of the Spirit. Knowing then all this, and considering our high estate, let us exhibit a life worthy of the grace<sup>2</sup>, that we may <sup>2 775</sup>  
obtain also the kingdom to come; which may we all obtain <sup>χαρίτος.</sup>  
through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom, to the Father, together with the Holy Spirit, be glory, power, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

<sup>b</sup> vid. Hom. viii. on Rom. comment. on v. 11. p. 113. Oxford Transl.

## HOMILY IV.

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2 COR. i. 23.

*Moreover, I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.*

WHAT sayest thou, O blessed Paul? To spare them thou camest not to Corinth? Surely thou presentest us with something of a contradiction. For a little above thou saidst, that thou therefore camest not, because thou purposest not according to the flesh, nor art thine own master, but art led about every where by the authority of the Spirit, and didst set forth thine afflictions. But here thou sayest it was thine own act that thou camest not, and not from the authority of the Spirit; for he saith, *To spare you I came not to Corinth.* What then is one to say? either, that this too was itself of the Spirit, and that he himself wished to come, but the Spirit suggested to him not to do so, urging the motive of sparing them; or else, that he is speaking of some other coming, and would signify that before he wrote the former Epistle, he was minded to have come, and for love's sake restrained himself, lest he should find them yet unamended. Perhaps also, after the second Epistle, though the Spirit no longer forbade him to go, he voluntarily stayed away for this reason. And this suspicion is the more probable, that, in the first instance, the Spirit forbade him: but afterwards upon his own conviction also, that this was more advisable, he stayed away.

And observe, I pray you, how he remembers again his own custom, (for this I shall never cease to observe,) of making what seems against him tell in his favour. For since it was

natural for them to suspect this and say, 'It was because <sup>2 COR.</sup> thou hatedst us, thou wouldest not come unto us,' he shews, I, 24. on the contrary, that the cause for which he would not come, was because he loved them.

What is the expression, *to spare you*? I heard, he saith, that some among you had committed fornication; I would not therefore come and make you sorry: for had I come, I must needs have enquired into the matter, and visited, and punished, and exacted justice from many. I judged it then better to be away, and to give opportunity for repentance, than to be with you, and to visit, and be still more incensed. For towards the end of this Epistle he hath plainly declared it, saying, *I fear lest when I come, my God will humble me* <sup>2 COR.</sup> *among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned* <sup>12, 20.</sup> *already, and have not repented of the lasciviousness and* <sup>21.</sup> *uncleanness<sup>a</sup> which they have committed.* This therefore in this place also he intimates, and he saith it indeed as in his own defence; yet rebuketh<sup>1</sup> them very severely, and putteth <sup>πιστεύ-</sup> them in fear; for he implied, that they were open to punish-<sup>φ</sup> ment, and will also have somewhat to suffer, unless they be quickly reformed. And he says the same thing again at the end of the Epistle thus; *If I come again, I will not spare.* <sup>2 COR.</sup> Only there he says it more plainly: but here, as it was the <sup>13, 2.</sup> proem, he does not say it so, but in a repressed<sup>2</sup> tone; nor is he <sup>ὕπ-</sup> content even with this, but he softens down even this, applying <sup>σταλμί-</sup> a corrective. For seeing the expression was that of one <sup>νως</sup> asserting great authority, (for a man spares those whom he has also power to punish,) in order to soften it, and draw a shade over what seems harsh, he saith,

*Ver. 24. Not for that we have dominion over your faith.*

That is, I did not therefore say, *To spare you I came not*, as having dominion over you. Again, he said not you, but *your faith*, which was at once gentler and truer. For one that hath no mind to believe, who hath power to compel?

*But are helpers of your joy?*

For since, saith he, your joy is ours, I came not, that I might not plunge you into sorrow, and increase my own despondency; but I stayed away, that being reformed by the threat, ye might be made glad. For we do every thing in

<sup>a</sup> Rec. text, "uncleanness, and fornication, and lasciviousness."



HOMIL. order to your joy, and endeavour ourselves in this behalf,  
 IV. because we are ourselves partakers of it.

*For by faith ye stand.*

Behold him again, speaking repressedly. For he was afraid to rebuke them again; since he had scourged them severely in the former Epistle, and they had made some reformation. Now if, (now that they were reformed,) they had again received the same reproof, this was likely to throw them back. Whence this Epistle is much gentler than the former.

<sup>1</sup> Rec.  
text,  
deter-  
mined  
this.

Chap. ii. 1. *But I determined<sup>1</sup> with myself that I would not come again to you in sorrow.*

The expression *again* proves that he had already been made sorry from thence, and whilst he seems to be speaking in his own defence, he covertly rebukes them. Now if they had both already made him sorry, and were about again to make him sorry, consider how great the displeasure was likely to be. But he saith not thus, 'Ye made me sorry,' but turns the expression differently, so as to imply the very same thing thus, 'For this cause I came not that I might not make you sorry:' which has the same force as what I said, but is more palatable.

[2.] Ver. 2. *For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?*

What is this consequence? A very just one indeed. For observe, I would not, he saith, come unto you, lest I should increase your sorrow, rebuking, shewing anger and disgust. Then seeing even this was strong, and implied accusation of them, that they so lived as to make Paul sorry, he applies a corrective in the words, *For if I make you sorry, who is he then that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me?*

What he saith is of this kind. 'Even though I were to be in sorrow, being compelled to rebuke you, and to see you sorry, still nevertheless this very thing would have made me glad. For this is a proof of the greatest love, that you hold me in such esteem, as to be hurt at my being displeased with you.'

(2.) Behold too his prudence. Their doing what all disciples do, namely, smarting and feeling it when rebuked, he produces as



an instance of their gratifying him; for, saith he, ‘No man <sup>2 COR.</sup> maketh me so glad as he that giveth heed to my words, II. 3. and is sorry when he seeth me angry.’

Yet what followed naturally<sup>1</sup> was to say, ‘For if I make<sup>1 τὸ ἀνδ-  
λουμεν.</sup> you sorry, who is he then that can make you glad?’ But he doth not say this, but turns his speech back again, dealing tenderly with them, and says, ‘Though I make you sorry, even herein ye bestow on me a very great favour, in that ye are hurt at what I say.’

Ver. 3. *For I wrote this same unto you.*

What? That for this cause I came not, to spare you. When wrote he? In the former Epistle, when he said, *I* <sup>1 COR.</sup> *will not see you now by the way?* <sup>16, 7.</sup> I think not; but in this Epistle, when he said, *Lest when I come again, my God* <sup>2 COR.</sup> *will humble me among you.* <sup>12, 21.</sup> I have written then towards the end this same, saith he, *lest when I come, my God will humble me, and I shall bewail many which have sinned already.*

But why didst thou write? *Lest when I came I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice, having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all?* For whereas he said, he was made glad by their sorrow, and by itself this was too arrogant and harsh, again he gave it a different turn, and softened it by what he subjoined. For, he saith, I therefore wrote unto you before, that I might not with anguish find you unreformed; and I said this, *lest I should have sorrow*, out of regard not to my own interest but yours. For I know that if ye see me rejoicing, ye rejoice, and if ye behold me sad, ye are sad. Observe therefore again the connection of what he said; for so his words will be more easy to understand. I came not, he says, lest I should cause you sorrow when finding you unreformed. And this I did, not studying my own advantage, but yours. For as to myself, when ye are made sorry, I receive no little pleasure, seeing that you care so much about me, as to be sorry and distressed at my being displeased. *For who is he that maketh me glad, but the same which is made sorry by me.* However, though it be so with myself, yet because I study your advantage, I wrote this same thing to you, that I might not be made sorry, herein also again studying not my

HOMIL. advantage, but yours; for I know, that were ye to see  
 IV. me sad, ye also would be sorry; as also ye are glad when ye see me rejoicing. Observe now his prudence. He said, I came not, that I might not make you sorry; although, saith he, this makes me glad. Then, lest he should seem to take pleasure in their pain, he saith, In this respect I am glad, inasmuch as I make you feel, for in another respect I am sorry, in that I am compelled to make those sorry who love me so much, not only by this rebuke, but also by being myself in sorrow, and by this means causing you fresh sorrow.

But observe how he puts this so as to mingle praise; saying, *from them of whom I ought to rejoice*, for these are the words of one testifying genuineness and much tender affection; as if one were speaking of sons on whom he had bestowed many benefits, and for whom laboured. If then for this, I write and come not; it is with weighty meaning <sup>1</sup> I come not, and not because I feel hate or aversion, but rather, exceeding love.

<sup>1</sup> μέγα τι  
οικονομῶν

[3.] Next, whereas he said, he that makes me sorry, makes me glad; lest they should say, ‘this then is what thou studieth, that thou mightest be made glad, and mightest exhibit to all the extent of thy power;’ he added,

Ver. 4. *For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears, not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.*

What more tenderly affectioned than this man’s spirit is? for he sheweth himself to have been not less pained than they who had sinned, but even much more. For he saith not *out of affliction* merely, but *out of much*, nor *with tears*, but *with many tears*, and *anguish of heart*, that is, I was suffocated, I was choked with that despondency; and when I could no longer endure the cloud of despondency, *I wrote unto you: not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love*, saith he, *which I have more abundantly unto you.* And yet what naturally followed was to say, not that ye might be grieved, but that ye might be corrected: (for indeed with this purpose he wrote.) This however he doth not say, but, (more to sweeten his words, and win them to a greater love-

charm,) he puts this for it, shewing that he doth all from <sup>2</sup> Cor. II. 5. love.

And he saith not simply *the love*, but, *which I have more abundantly unto you*. For hereby also he desires to win them, by shewing that he loveth them more than all, and feels towards them as to chosen disciples. Whence he saith, *Even if I be not an Apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you*; and, *Though ye have many<sup>1</sup> instructors, yet have ye not many fathers*; and again, *By the grace of God we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you wards*; and farther on, *Though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved*; and here, *Which I have more abundantly unto you*. So that if my words were full of anger, yet out of much love and sadness was the anger; and whilst writing the Epistle, I suffered, I was pained, not because ye had sinned only, but also because I was compelled to make you sorry. And this itself was out of love. Just as a father whose true born<sup>2</sup> son is afflicted with a<sup>2</sup> gangrene, being compelled to use the knife and cautery, is pained on both accounts, both that he is diseased, and that he is necessitated to use the knife to him. So that what ye consider a sign of hating you, was indeed a sign of excessive love. And if to have made you sorry was out of love, much more gladness at that sorrow.

[4.] Having made this defence of himself, (for he frequently defends himself, without being ashamed; for if God doth so, saying, *O My people, what have I done unto thee?* much more might Paul,) having, I say, made this defence of himself, and being now about to pass on to the plea for him, who had committed fornication, in order, that they might not be distracted as at receiving contradictory commands, nor take to cavilling, because he it was who both then was angry, and was now commanding to forgive him, see how he provided for this beforehand, both by what he has said, and what he is going to say. For what saith he?

Ver. 5. *But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me.*

Having first praised them, as feeling joy and sorrow for the same things as himself, he then strikes into the subject of this person, having said first, *my joy is the joy of you all*. But

<sup>1</sup> Cor. 9,

<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cor. 4,

15.

<sup>1</sup> Rec.

text

<sup>1</sup> *μυρίους.*

<sup>2</sup> Cor. 1,

12, 15.

(3.)

<sup>2</sup> *γνήσιος.*

<sup>3</sup> *πρὸ χειρὸς.*

*νόμηνεν.*

HOMIL. if my joy is the joy of you all, need is that you should also now  
 IV. feel pleasure with me, as ye then were pained with me: for both in that ye were made sorry, ye made me glad; and now in that ye rejoice, (if as I suppose ye shall feel pleasure,) ye will do the same. He said not, my sorrow is the sorrow of you all; but having established this in the rest of what he said, he has now put forward that only, which he most desired, namely, the joy: saying, my joy is the joy of you all. Then, he makes mention also of the former matter, saying,

*But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me; but in part, (that I may not be too severe,) all of you.*

I know, he saith, that ye shared in my anger and indignation against him that had committed fornication, and that what had taken place grieved in part all of you. And therefore said I *in part*, not as though ye were less hurt than I, but that I might not weigh down him that had committed fornication. He did not then grieve me only, but you also equally, even though to spare him I said, *in part*. Seest thou how at once he moderated their anger, by declaring that they shared also in his indignation.

Ver. 6. *Sufficient to such a man is this censure, which was inflicted of many.*

And he saith not “to him that hath committed fornication,” but here again “to such a man,” as also in the former Epistle. Not however for the same reason; but there out of shame, here out of mercy. Wherefore he no where subsequently so much as mentions the crime; for it was time now to excuse.

Ver. 7. *So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.*

He bids them not only take off the censure; but, besides, restores him to his former estate; for if one let go him that hath been scourged, and heal him not, he hath done nothing. And see, how him too he keeps down, lest he should be rendered worse by the forgiveness. For though he had both confessed and repented, he makes it manifest that he obtaineth remission, not so much by his penitence, as by this free gift. Wherefore he saith, *to forgive*<sup>1</sup> *him, and to comfort him*, and what follows again makes the same

<sup>1</sup> χαρι-  
σασθαι.



thing plain. For, saith he, it is not because he is worthy, nor <sup>2 COR.</sup> because he has shewn sufficient penitence; but because he <sup>II. 8.</sup> is weak, it is for this I request<sup>1</sup> it.' Whence also he added, <sup>1</sup> Or, <sup>think it</sup> lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overfitting. much sorrow. And this is both as testifying to his deep repentance and as not allowing him to fall into despair<sup>b</sup>.

But what means this, *swallowed up*? If he either did as Judas did, or even in living<sup>c</sup> became worse. For, saith he, he will even rush away from no longer enduring the anguish of this lengthened censure, perchance also despairing, he will either come to hang himself, or fall into greater crimes afterwards. One ought then to take steps beforehand<sup>2</sup>; lest the sore become too hard to deal with;<sup>2</sup> <sup>προκα-</sup> and lest what we have well done we destroy by our want of <sup>ταλαβειν</sup> moderation.

Now this he said, (as I have already observed,) both to (4.) keep him low, and to teach him not to be over-listless after this restoration. For, not as one who has washed all quite away; but as fearing, lest he should work ought of deeper mischief, I have so received him, he saith. Whence we learn that we must determine the penance, not only by the nature of the sins, but by the disposition and habit of them that sin. As the Apostle did in that instance. For he feared his weakness, and therefore said, *lest he be swallowed up*, as though by a wild beast, by a storm, by a billow.

Ver. 8. *Wherefore I beseech you.*

He no longer commands, but beseeches not as a teacher, but as an equal; and having seated them on the judgment seat, he placed himself in the rank of an advocate; for having succeeded in his object, for joy he adopts without restraint the tone of supplication. And what can it be that thou beseechest? Tell me.

*That ye would confirm your love towards him.*

That is, 'would make it strong,' not simply have intercourse with him, nor any how. Herein, again, he bears testimony to their virtue as very great; since they who were so friendly and so applauded him, as even to be puffed up, were so estranged, that Paul takes such pains to make them confirm their love towards him. Herein is excellence of

<sup>b</sup> ἀπονοίας, which is however seldom used in this sense by St. Chrysostom.

HOMIL. disciples, herein excellence of masters; that they should  
 IV. so obey the rein, he so manage their motions<sup>1</sup>. If this  
<sup>1</sup> *ἐν ᾧ* *ζῆλον* were so even now too, they who sin would not have transgressed without feeling. For it is neither right to love hastily; nor to be estranged without some reason.

Rec. [5.] Ver. 9. *For to this end also did I write to you, that I*  
 text om. *might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all*  
<sup>1</sup> *μὴ* *things*; not only in cutting off, but also in reuniting. Seest thou  
 how here again he brings the danger to their doors. For as  
 when he sinned, he alarmed their minds, except they should  
 1 Cor. 5, cut him off, saying, *A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*,  
 6. and several other things; so here too again he confronts them with the fear of disobedience, as good as saying, ‘As then ye had to consult not for him, but for yourselves too, so now must ye, not less for yourselves than for him; lest ye seem to be of such as love contention, and have not human sensibilities, and not to be in all things obedient. And hence he saith, *For to this end also did I write to you, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things*.

For the former instance might have seemed to proceed even of envy and malice, but this shews very especially the obedience to be pure, and whether ye are apt unto lovingkindness. For this is the test of right minded disciples; if they obey not only when ordered to do the former things, but when the contrary also. Therefore he said, *in all things*, shewing that if they disobey, they disgrace not him<sup>1</sup> so much as themselves, earning the character of lovers of contention; and he doth this, that hence also he may drive them to obey. Whence also he saith, *For to this end did I write to you*; and yet he wrote not for this end, but he saith so in order to win them. For the leading object was the salvation of that person. But where it does no harm, he also gratifies them. And by saying, *In all things*, he again praises them, recalling to memory and bringing forth to view their former obedience.

Ver. 10. *To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also.*

Seest thou how again he assigns the second part to himself, shewing them as beginning, himself following. This is the way to soften an exasperated, to compose a contentious

<sup>1</sup> the incestuous person.



*He leaves, yet leaves not, them power to forgive, and cut off.* 61

spirit. Then lest he should make them careless, as though <sup>2 COR. 11. 11.</sup> they were arbiters, and they should refuse forgiveness; she again constrains them unto this, saying, that himself also had forgiven him.

*For if I have forgiven any thing, what<sup>c</sup> I have forgiven was for your sakes.* For, this very thing I have done for your sakes, he saith. And as when he commanded them to cut him off, he left not with them the power to forgive, saying, *I have judged already to deliver such an one unto* <sup>1 COR. 5. 3. 5.</sup> *Satan*, and again made them concur in his decision, saying, *When ye are gathered together to deliver him,* (thereby <sup>ib. 4, 5.</sup> securing two most important things, viz. that the sentence should be passed; yet not without their consent, lest herein he might seem to hurt them;) and neither himself alone pronounces it, lest they should consider him self-willed, and themselves to be overlooked, nor yet leaves all to them, lest when possessed of the power they should deal treacherously by the offender, by unseasonably forgiving him: so also doth he here, saying, 'I have already forgiven, who in the former Epistle had already judged.' Then, lest they should be hurt, as though overlooked, he adds, *for your sakes.* What then? did he for men's sake pardon? No; for on this account he added,

*In the person of Christ.*

What is *in the person of Christ*? Either he means according to [the will of] God, or unto the glory of Christ.

Ver. 11. *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

Seest thou how he both committeth the power to them, and again taketh it away, that by that he may soften them, by this eradicate their self will. But this is not all that he provides for by this, but shews also that should they be disobedient, the harm would reach to all, just as he did at the outset also. For then too he said, *A little leaven* <sup>1 COR. 5. 6.</sup> *leaveneth the whole lump.* And here again, *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us.* And throughout, he maketh this forgiveness the joint act of himself and them. Consider it from (5.) the first. *But if any, saith he, have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but, in part, all of you, that I may not be too*

<sup>c</sup> Rec. text  $\bar{\alpha}$ , for which S. Chrysost. (in most Mss.) has  $\bar{\delta}$ .

HOMIL. severe. Then again, *Sufficient to such a man is this censure*  
 IV. *which was inflicted of many.* This is his own decision and opinion. He rested not however with this decision, but again makes them concur, saying, *So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him and comfort him. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love towards him.* Having thus again made the whole their act, he passes to his own authority, saying, *For to this end did I write unto you, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things.* Then, again, he makes the favour theirs, saying, *To whom ye forgive any thing.* Then, his own, *I forgive also:* saying, *if I have forgiven any thing, it is for your sakes.* Then both theirs and his, *For, saith he, if I have forgiven any thing, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ,* either [that is] for the glory of Christ, or as though Christ commanding this also, which was most effectual to prevail with them. For after this they would have feared not to grant that which tended to His glory, and which He willed. Then again he signifieth the common harm should they disobey; when he saith, *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us;* well naming it, getting advantage. For he no more takes his own, but violently seizeth ours, for he<sup>1</sup> is reformed<sup>2</sup>. And tell me not, that this one only becomes the wild beast's prey, but consider this also, that the number of the herd is diminished, and now especially when it might recover what it had lost.

<sup>1</sup> the incestuous person.  
<sup>2</sup> So 2 Mss. ap. Field.

*For we are not ignorant of his devices,*

That he destroys even under the show of piety. For not only by leading into fornication can he destroy, but even by the contrary, the unmeasured sorrow following on the repentance for it. When then besides his own he taketh ours too, when both by bidding to sin, he destroys; and when we bid repent, violently seizeth; how is not this case getting *advantage*? For he is not content with striking down by sin, but even by repentance he doth this, except we be vigilant. Wherefore also with reason did he call it getting advantage, when he even conquereth with our own weapons. For to take by sin is his proper work; by repentance, however, is no more his; for ours, not his, is that weapon. When then even by this he is able to take, think how disgraceful the defeat, how he will laugh to scorn, and make ravage on us as

weak and pitiful, if at least he is to subdue us with our own <sup>2 COR. II. 11.</sup> weapons. For it were matter for exceeding scorn and of the last disgrace, that he should invent wounds for us through our own remedies. Therefore he said, *for we are not ignorant of his devices*, exposing his versatility, his craftiness, his evil devices, his malice, his capacity to injure upon a show of piety.

[6.] These things then having in mind, let us too never despise any one; nor ever, though we fall into sin, despair; on the other hand, again, let us not be easy-minded afterwards, but, when we transgress, afflict our minds, and not merely give vent to words. For I know many who say indeed, that they bewail their sins, but work nothing of account. They fast indeed, and wear rough garments; but after money are more eager than hucksters; are more the prey of anger than wild beasts, and take more pleasure in detraction than others do in commendations. These things are not repentance, these things are the semblance and shadow only of repentance, not repentance itself. Wherefore in the case of these persons too it is well to say, *Take heed lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices*; for some he destroys through sins, others through repentance; but these in yet another way, by suffering them to gain no fruit from repentance. For when he found not how he might destroy them by direct [attack,] he came another road, heightening their toils, whilst robbing them of the fruits, and persuading them, as if they had successfully accomplished all they had to do, therefore to be neglectful of what remains.

That we may not then fruitlessly afflict ourselves, let us address a few words to women of this character; for to women this disorder especially belongs. Praiseworthy indeed is even that which now ye do, your fasting, and lying on the ground, and your ashes; but except the rest be added, these are of no avail. God hath shewed how He remitteth sins. Why then forsaking that path, do ye carve another for yourselves. In old time the Ninevites sinned, and they did the things, which ye too now are doing. Let us see however what it was that availed them. For as in the case of the sick, physicians apply many remedies; howbeit the man of understanding regardeth

HOMIL. not that the sick person has tried this and that, but what was of  
IV.

service to him; such must be also our inquiry here. What then was it that availed those barbarians? They applied fasting unto the wounds, yea applied extreme fasting, lying on the ground too, putting on of sackcloth, and ashes, and lamentations; they applied also a change of life. Let us then see which of these things made them whole. And whence, saith one, shall we know? If we come to the Physician, if we ask Him: for He will not hide it from us, but will even eagerly disclose it. Rather that none may be ignorant, nor need to ask, He hath even set down in writing the medicine that

(6.) restored them. What then is this? *God, saith He, saw that they turned every one from his evil way, and He repented of the evil that He had said He would do unto them.* He said not, He saw [their] fasting and sackcloth and ashes. And I say not this to overturn fasting, (God forbid!) but to exhort you that with fasting ye do that which is better than fasting, the abstaining from all evil. David also sinned. Let us see then how he too repented. Three days he sat on ashes. But this he did not for the sin's sake, but for the child's, being as yet stupefied with that affliction. But the sin by other means did he wipe away, by humbleness, contrition of heart, compunction of soul, by falling into the like no more, by remembering it always, by bearing thankfully every thing that befalls him, by sparing those that grieve him, by forbearing to avenge on those who conspire against him; yea, even preventing those who desire to do this. For instance, when Shimei was

Jonah 3, 10. *Let him curse me, for the Lord hath bidden him:* for he had a contrite and humbled heart, and it was this especially which wiped away his sins. For this is confession, this is repentance. But if whilst we fast we are proud, we have been not only nothing profited, but even injured.

2 Sam. 12, 17. &c.

2 Sam. 16, 5. 9.

bespattering him with reproaches without number, and the captain who was with him was greatly indignant, he said, *Let him curse me, for the Lord hath bidden him:* for he had a contrite and humbled heart, and it was this especially which wiped away his sins. For this is confession, this is repentance. But if whilst we fast we are proud, we have been not only nothing profited, but even injured.

[7.] Humble then thine heart, thou too, that thou mayest draw God unto thee. *For the Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart.* Seest thou not in the gorgeous houses those who are in disgrace; how they answer not again when even the lower servants insult them, but put up with it, because of the disgrace with which their fault hath surrounded them;

Ps. 33, 19.



So do thou too: and if any one revile thee, wax not fierce, <sup>2 Cor. II. 11.</sup> but groan, not for the insult, but for that sin which cast thee into disgrace. Groan when thou hast sinned, not because thou art to be punished, (for this is nothing,) but because thou hast offended thy Master, one so gentle, one so kind, one that so loveth thee and hangeth upon the hope of thy salvation, as to have given even His Son for thee. For this groan, and do this continually: for this is confession. Be not to-day of a cheerful, to-morrow of a sad, countenance, then again of a cheerful; but continue ever in mourning and self contrition. For, *Blessed*, saith he, *are they that mourn*, that is, they that do this perpetually. Continue then to do this perpetually, and to take heed to thyself, and to afflict thine heart; as one who had lost a beloved son might mourn. *Rend*, saith he, *your hearts, and not your garments*. That <sup>Joel 2, 13.</sup> which is rent, will not lift itself on high; that which hath been broken, cannot rise up again. Hence one saith, *Rend*, and another, *a broken and an humbled heart God* <sup>Ps. 51, 17.</sup> *will not despise*. Yea, though thou be wise, or wealthy, or a ruler, rend thine heart. Suffer it not to have high thoughts, nor to be inflated. For that which is rent is not inflated, and even if there be ought to make it rise, from being rent it cannot retain the inflation. So also do thou be humble-minded. Consider that the publican was justified by one word, although that was not humbleness, but a true confession. Now if this hath power so great, how much more humbleness. Remit offences to those who have transgressed against thee, for this too remitteth sins. And concerning the former He saith, *I saw that he went sorrowful, and I healed his ways*; and <sup>Is. 57, 17. 18.</sup> in Ahab's case, this appeased the wrath of God: concerning the latter, *Remit, and it shall be remitted unto you*. There <sup>1 Kings 21, 29.</sup> is also again another way which bringeth us this medicine; condemning what we have done amiss; for, *Declare thou* <sup>Is. 43, 26. LXX.</sup> *first thy transgressions, that thou mayest be justified*. And for one in afflictions to give thanks, looseth his sins; and almsgiving, which is greater than all.

Reckon up therefore the medicines which heal thy wounds, and apply all unremittingly<sup>1</sup>, humbleness, confession, for-<sup>1 συνε-</sup> getting wrongs, giving thanks in afflictions, shewing mercy <sup>χρῆς.</sup> both in alms and actions, persevering in prayer. So did the



HOMIL. widow propitiate the cruel and unyielding judge. And  
IV. if she the unjust, much more thou the gentle. There is  
yet another way along with these, defending the oppressed;  
1s. 1, 17. *for, He saith, judge the fatherless, and plead for the*  
18. *widow; and come, and let us reason together, and*  
*though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white*  
*as snow.* What excuse then can we deserve to have made  
for us, if with so many ways leading us up to heaven, and so  
many medicines to heal our wounds, even after the Laver we  
continue where we were. Let us then not only continue  
so, but let those indeed who have never yet fallen abide in  
their proper loveliness; yea, rather let them cultivate it  
more and more, (for these good works, where they find not  
sins, make the beauty greater:) and let us, who in many  
things have done amiss, in order to the correction of our  
sins use the means mentioned: that we may stand at the  
tribunal of Christ with much boldness, whereunto may all  
we attain through the grace and love towards men of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, together with  
the Holy Spirit, be glory, and power, and honour, now and  
ever, world without end. Amen.

## HOMILY V.

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2 Cor. ii. 12, 13.

*Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's Gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord, I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother.*

THESE words seem on the one hand to be unworthy of Paul, if because of a brother's absence, he threw away so great an opportunity of saving; and on the other, to hang apart from the context. What then? Will ye that we should first prove that they hang upon the context, or, that he hath said nothing unworthy of himself? As I think, the second<sup>a</sup>, for so the other point also will be easier and clearer.

How then do these [words] hang upon those before them? Let us recall to mind what those were, and so we shall perceive this. What then were those before? What he said at the beginning. *I would not have you, saith he, ignorant of our* <sup>2 Cor. 1,</sup> *trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out* <sup>8,</sup> *of measure above strength.* Now having shewn the manner of his deliverance, and inserted the intermediate matter, he is of necessity led to teach them again, that, in yet another way he had been troubled. How, and in what way? In not finding Titus. Fearful indeed, and enough to prostrate the soul, is it, even to endure trials; but when there is none to comfort, and that can help to bear the burden, the tempest becometh greater. Now Titus, is he, whom further

<sup>a</sup> So Chrysostom, referring apparently to the first sentence in the Homily. It is manifest at least, that the pre-  
ceding sentence required "the former" here, and not "the second."

7, 6.  
8, 6.  
16, 22.  
23.  
12, 18.

HOMIL. on he speaks of as having come to him from them, and of  
 —V.—whom he runs through many and great praises, and whom he said he had sent. With the view then of shewing that in this point also he had been afflicted for their sakes, he said these things.

That the words then in question hang on what went before, is from all this plain. And I will attempt to prove also that they are not unworthy of Paul. For He doth not say, that the absence of Titus impeded the salvation of those who were about to come over, nor yet that he neglected those that believed on this account, but that he had no rest, that is, ‘I was troubled, I was distressed for the absence of my brother;’ shewing how great a matter a brother’s absence is; and therefore he departed thence. But what means, *when I had come to Troas to preach the Gospel?* he saith not simply ‘I arrived,’ but, ‘so as to preach. But still, though I had both come for that, and found very much, to do, (for *a door was opened unto me of the Lord,*) I had, saith he, *no rest,*’ not that for this he impeded the work. How then saith he,

Ver. 13. *Taking my leave of them, I went from thence?*

That is, ‘I spent no longer time, being straitened and distressed.’ And perhaps the work was even impeded by his absence. And this was no light consolation to them too. For if when a door was opened there, and for this purpose he had come; yet because he found not the brother, he quickly started away; much more, he saith, ought ye to make allowance for the compulsion of those affairs, which lead us and lead us about every where, and suffer us not according as we wish either to journey, or tarry amongst those, with whom we may wish, a longer time. Whence also he proceeds in this place again to refer his journeyings to God, as he did above to the Spirit, saying,

Ver. 14. *Now thanks be to God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place.*

For that he may not seem as though in sorrow to be lamenting these things, he sendeth up thanks to God. Now what he saith is this: ‘Every where is trouble, every where straitness. I came into Asia, I was burthened beyond

strength. I came to Troas, I found not the brother. I came <sup>2 Cor. 11. 14.</sup> not to you; this too bred in me no slight, yea rather, exceeding great dejection, both because many among you had sinned, and because on this account I see you not. For, *To spare you*, he saith, *I came not as yet unto Corinth.*

That then he may not seem to be complaining in so speaking, he adds, 'We not only do not grieve in these afflictions, but we even rejoice; and, what is still greater, not for the sake of the rewards to come only, but those too even which are present. For even here we are by these things made glorious and conspicuous. So far then are we from lamenting, that we even call the thing a triumph; and glory in what happeneth.' For which cause also he said, *Now thanks be unto God, Which always causeth us to triumph*, that is, 'Who maketh us renowned unto all. For what seemeth to be matter of disgrace, being persecuted from every quarter, this appeareth to us to be matter of very great honour.' Wherefore he said not, "Which maketh us seen of all," but, *Which causeth us to triumph*: shewing that these persecutions set up a series<sup>1</sup> of trophies against the <sup>συμμιχῶν</sup> devil in every part of the world. Then having mentioned along with the author, the subject also of the triumph, he thereby also raiseth up the hearer. 'For not only are we made to triumph by God, but also *in Christ*;' that is, on account of Christ and the Gospel. 'For seeing it behoveth to triumph, all need is that we also who carry the trophy, are seen of all, because we bear Him. For this reason we become observed and conspicuous.'

[2.] Ver. 14. *And which maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place.*

He said above, *Which always causeth us to triumph.* (2.) Here he saith *in every place*, shewing that every, both place and time, is full of the Apostles' labours. And he uses yet another metaphor, that of the sweet savour. For 'like as those who bear ointment, so are we,' saith he, 'manifest to all;' calling the knowledge a very precious ointment. Moreover, he said not, 'the knowledge;' but *the savour of the knowledge*; for such is the nature of the present knowledge, not very clear, nor uncovered. Whence also he said in the former Epistle, *For now we see through a glass darkly.* And here he calls <sup>1 Cor. 13, 12,</sup>

HOMIL. that which is such a *savour*. Now he that perceiveth the  
 V. savour, knoweth that there is ointment lying somewhere: but of what nature it is as to the substance, he knows not yet, unless he happens before to have seen it. ‘So also we. That God is, we know, but what in substance we know not yet. We are then, as it were, a Royal censer, breathing, whithersoever we go, of the heavenly ointment, and the spiritual sweet savour.’ Now he said this, at once both to set forth the power of the Preaching, in that, by the very designs formed against them, they shine more than those who persecute them, and who cause the whole world to know both their trophies and their sweet savour: and to exhort them in regard to their afflictions and trials, to bear all nobly, seeing that even before the Recompense they reap this glory inexpressible.

Ver. 15. *For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish.*

Whether, saith he, one be saved, or whether lost, the Gospel continues to have its proper virtue: and as the light, although it blindeth the weakly, is still light, though causing blindness; and as honey, though it be bitter to those who are diseased, is in its nature sweet; so also is the Gospel of sweet savour, even though some should be lost who believe it not. For not It, but their own perverseness, worketh the perdition. And by this most of all is its sweet savour manifested, by which the corrupt and the vicious perish; so that not only by the salvation of the good, but also by the perdition of the wicked, is its excellence declared. Since both the sun, for this reason most especially that he is exceeding bright, doth wound the eyes of the weak: and the Saviour is *for the fall and rising again of many*, but still He continueth to be a Saviour, though ten thousand fall; and His coming brought a sorer punishment upon them that believe not, but still it continueth to be full of healing<sup>1</sup>. Whence also he saith, *We are unto God a sweet savour*; that is, ‘even though some be lost, we continue to be that which we are.’ Moreover he said not simply, *a sweet savour*, but, *unto God*. And when we are a sweet savour unto God, and He decreeth these things, who shall henceforth gainsay?

Luke 2, eyes of the weak: and the Saviour is *for the fall and rising again of many*, but still He continueth to be a Saviour, though ten thousand fall; and His coming brought a sorer punishment upon them that believe not, but still it continueth to be full of healing<sup>1</sup>. Whence also he saith, *We are unto God a sweet savour*; that is, ‘even though some be lost, we continue to be that which we are.’ Moreover he said not simply, *a sweet savour*, but, *unto God*. And when we are a sweet savour unto God, and He decreeth these things, who shall henceforth gainsay?

<sup>1</sup> σωτήριος

The expression also, *sweet savour of Christ*, appears to



me to admit of a double interpretation : for he either means <sup>2 Cor. 11. 16.</sup> that in dying they offered themselves a sacrifice : or that they were a sweet savour of the death of Christ, as if one should say, this incense is a sweet savour of this victim. The expression then, sweet savour, either signifieth this, or, as I first said, that they are daily sacrificed for Christ's sake.

[3.] Seest thou to what a height he hath advanced the trials, terming them a triumph and a sweet savour, and a sacrifice offered unto God. Then, whereas he said, *we are a sweet savour, and in them that perish*, lest thou shouldest think that these too are acceptable, he added,

Ver. 16. *To the one we are the savour of death unto death, and to the other, the savour of life unto life.*

For this sweet savour some so receive that they are saved, some so, that they perish. So that should any be lost, the fault is from himself : for both ointment is said to suffocate swine, and light, (as I before observed,) to blind the weak. And such is the nature of good things ; they not only correct what is akin to them, but also destroy the opposite : and in this way is their power most displayed. For so both fire, not only when it giveth light, nor only when it purifieth gold, but even when it consumeth thorns, doth very greatly display its proper power, and so shew itself to be fire : and Christ too herein also doth discover His own majesty when He *shall consume Antichrist with the spirit of His mouth, and* <sup>2 Thess. 2, 8.</sup> *destroy him with the brightness of His coming.*

*And who is sufficient for these things?*

Seeing he had uttered great things, that ' we are a sacrifice of Christ, and a sweet savour, and are every where made to triumph,' he again useth humbleness, referring all to God. Whence also he saith, *and who is sufficient for these things?* ' for all,' saith he, ' is Christ's, nothing our own.' Seest thou how opposite his language to the false Apostles' ? For they indeed glory, as contributing somewhat from themselves unto the message : he, on the contrary, saith, he therefore glorieth, because he saith that nothing is his own. *For our glorying is* <sup>2 Cor. 1, 12.</sup> *this, the testimony of our conscience, that not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world.* And that which they considered it a

HOMIL. glory to acquire, I mean the wisdom from without, he makes  
 V. it his to take away. Whence also he here saith, *And who is sufficient for these things?* But if none are sufficient, that which is done is of grace.

Ver. 17. *For we are not as the rest, which corrupt the word of God.*

‘For, even if we use great sounding words, yet we declared nothing to be our own that we achieved, but all Christ’s. For we will not imitate the false apostles; the men who say that most is of themselves.’ For this is *to corrupt*, when one adulterates the wine; when one sells for money what he ought to give freely. For he seems to me to be here both taunting them in respect to money, and again hinting at the very thing I have said, as that they mingle of their own things with God’s; which is the charge Esaias brings when he said,  
 Is. 1, 22. *Thy vintners mingle wine with water:* for even if this was  
 LXX. said of wine, yet one would not err in expounding it of doctrine too. ‘But we,’ saith he, ‘do not so: but such as we have been entrusted with, such do we offer you, pouring out the word undiluted.’ Whence he added, *But as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*

‘We do not,’ saith he, ‘beguile you, and so preach, as conferring a gift on you, or as bringing in and mingling somewhat from ourselves, *but as of God*; that is, we do not say that we confer any thing of our own, but that God hath given all.’ For *of God* means this; To glory in nothing as if we had it of our own, but to refer every thing to Him.

*Speak we in Christ.*

Not by our own wisdom, but instructed by the power that cometh from Him. Those who glory speak not in this way, but as bringing in something from themselves.

<sup>1</sup> κομῶν- Whence he elsewhere also turns them into ridicule<sup>1</sup>, saying,  
 δεῖν.  
 1 Cor. 4, *For what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if*  
 7. *thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory as if thou hadst not received it.* This is the highest virtue, to refer every thing to God, to consider nothing to be our own, to do nothing out of regard to men’s opinion, but to what God willeth. For He it is that requireth the account. Now however this order is reversed: and of Him that shall sit upon the tribunal, and require the account, we have no

exceeding fear, yet tremble at those who stand and are <sup>2 COR.</sup>  
judged with us. <sup>II. 7.</sup>

[4.] Whence then is this disease? Whence hath it broken <sup>MORAL.</sup>  
out in our souls? From not meditating continually on the  
things of that world, but being rivetted to present things.  
Hence we both easily fall into wicked doings, and even if we  
do any good thing, we do it for display, so that thence also  
loss cometh to us. For instance, one has looked on a person  
often with unbridled eyes, unseen of her, or of those who walk  
with her<sup>1</sup>, yet of the Eye that never sleeps was not unseen. <sup>1Or, him.</sup>  
For even before the commission of the sin, It saw the un-  
bridled soul, and that madness within, and the thoughts that  
were whirled about in storm and surge; for no need hath He  
of witnesses and proofs Who knoweth all things. Look not  
then to thy fellow-servants: for, though man praise, it availeth  
not, if God accept not; and though man condemn, it harmeth  
not, so God do not condemn. Oh! provoke not so thy  
Judge; of thy fellow-servants making great account, yet  
when Himself is angry, not in fear and trembling at Him.  
Let us then despise the praise that cometh of men. How  
long shall we be low-minded and grovelling? How long,  
when God lifteth us to heaven, take we pains to be trailed <sup>22 σύρσι-</sup>  
along the ground? The brethren of Joseph, had they had <sup>8αι.</sup>  
the fear of God before their eyes, as men ought to have,  
would not have taken their brother in a lonely place and <sup>Gen. 37.</sup>  
killed him. Cain again, had he feared that sentence as  
he should have feared, would not have said, *Come, and let* <sup>Gen. 4,</sup>  
*us go into the field*: for to what end, O miserable and <sup>8. LXX.</sup>  
wretched! dost thou take him apart from him that begat him,  
and ledest him out into a lonely place? For doth not God  
see the daring deed even in the field? Hast thou not been  
taught by what befel thy father, that He knoweth all things,  
and is present at all things that are done? And why, when  
he denied, said not God this unto him: 'Hidest thou from  
Me Who am present every where, and know the things that  
are secret?' Because as yet he knew not aright to com-  
prehend these high truths<sup>3</sup>. But what saith he? *The voice* <sup>3 ταῦτα</sup>  
*of thy brother's blood crieth unto Me*. Not as though blood <sup>φιλοσο-</sup>  
hath a voice; but like as we say when things are plain and <sup>φιν.</sup>  
clear, "the matter speaketh for itself<sup>4</sup>."

<sup>4</sup> βοῶ.

HOMIL.

V.

— sentence of God, and all terrors are extinguished. So too in prayers we can keep awake, if we bear in mind with whom we are conversing, if we reflect that we are offering sacrifice, and have in our hands a knife, and fire, and wood; if in thought we throw wide the gates of heaven, if we transport ourselves thither, and taking the sword of the Spirit infix it in the throat of the victim: make watchfulness the sacrifice, and tears the libation to Him. For such is the blood of this victim. Such the slaughter that crimsones that altar. Suffer not then aught of worldly thoughts to occupy

- (4.) thy soul then. Bethink thee that Abraham also, when offering sacrifice, suffered nor wife, nor servant, nor any other to be present. Neither then do thou suffer any of the slavish and ignoble passions to be present unto thee, but go up alone into the mountain where he went up, where no second person is permitted to go up. And should any such thoughts attempt to go up with thee, command them with authority,

Gen. 22, and say, *Sit ye there, and I and the lad will worship, and*  
5. LXX. *return to you;* and leaving the ass and the servants below,

and whatever is void of reason and sense, go up, taking with thee whatever is reasonable, as he took Isaac. And build thine altar so as he, as having nothing human, but having outstepped nature. For he too, had he not outstepped nature, would not have slain his child. And let nothing disturb thee then, but be lift up above the heavens themselves. Groan bitterly, sacrifice confession, (for, saith

Is. 43, he, *Declare thou first thy transgressions, that thou mayest*  
26. LXX. *be justified,*) sacrifice contrition of heart. These victims

turn not to ashes, nor dissolve into smoke, nor melt into air; neither need they wood and fire, but only a deep-pricked heart. This is wood, this is fire to burn, yet not consume them. For he that prayeth with warmth, is burnt, yet not consumed; but like gold that is tried by fire becometh brighter.

[5.] And withal observe heedfully one thing more, in praying to say none of those things that provoke thy Master; neither draw near [to pray] against enemies. For if to have enemies be a reproach, consider how great the evil to pray against them. For need is, that thou defend thyself and shew why thou hast enemies: but thou even

accusest<sup>a</sup> them. And what forgiveness shalt thou obtain, <sup>2 Cor.</sup> when thou both revilest, and at such a time, when thyself <sup>II. 17.</sup> needest much mercy. For thou drewest near to supplicate for thine own sins: make not mention then of those of others, lest thou recall the memory of thine own. For if thou say, 'Smite mine enemy,' thou hast stopped thy mouth, thou hast cut off boldness from thy tongue: first, indeed, because thou hast angered the Judge at once on prefacing; next, because thou askest things at variance with the character of thy prayer. For if thou comest near for forgiveness of sins, how discourest thou of punishment? The contrary surely was there need to do, and to pray for them, that we may with boldness beseech this for ourselves also. But now thou hast forestalled the Judge's sentence by thine own, demanding that He punish them that sin: for this depriveth of all pardon. But if thou pray for them, even if thou say nothing in thine own sins' behalf, thou hast achieved all<sup>1</sup>. <sup>τὸ πᾶν ἡνυσας.</sup> Consider how many sacrifices there are in the law; a sacrifice of praise, a sacrifice of acknowledgment, a sacrifice of peace<sup>b</sup>, a sacrifice of purifications, and numberless others, and not one of them against enemies, but all in behalf either of one's own sins, or one's own successes. For comest thou to another God? To Him thou comest that said, "Pray for <sup>Luke 6,</sup> your enemies." How then dost thou cry against them? <sup>27. 35.</sup> How dost thou beseech God to break His own law? This is <sup>Rom. 12,</sup> <sup>14.</sup> not the guise of a suppliant. None supplicates the destruction of another, but the safety of himself. Why then wearest thou the guise of a suppliant, but hast the words of an accuser? Yet when we pray for ourselves, we scratch ourselves and yawn, and fall into ten thousand thoughts; but when against our enemies, we do so wakefully. For since the devil knows that we are thrusting the sword against ourselves, he doth not distract nor call us off then, that he may work us the greater harm. But, saith one, 'I have been injured and am afflicted.' Why not then pray against the devil, who injureth us most of all. This thou hast also been

<sup>a</sup> Some Mss. have *κακηγορεῖς*, re- the LXX, for the peace-offering, vilest. Lev. 3, 1. &c.

<sup>b</sup> *εὐχία σωτηρίου*, the rendering of



HOMIL. commanded to say, *Deliver us from the evil one.* He is thy  
 V. irreconcilable foe, but man, do whatsoever he will, is a  
 friend and brother. With him then let us all be angry ;

Rom. 16, against him let us beseech God, saying, “ *Bruise Satan*  
 20. *under our feet ;*” for he it is that breedeth also the enemies  
 [we have]. But if thou pray against enemies, thou prayest  
 so as he would have thee pray, just as if for thine enemies, then  
 against him. Why then letting him go, who is thine enemy  
 indeed, dost thou tear thine own members, more cruel in this  
 than wild beasts. ‘ But,’ saith one, ‘ he insulted me, and  
 robbed me of money ;’ and which hath need to grieve, he that  
 suffered injury, or he that inflicted injury ? Plainly he that  
 inflicted injury, since whilst he gained money he cast himself  
 out of the favour of God, and lost more than he gained :  
 so that he is the injured party. Surely then need is, not  
 that one pray against, but for him, that God would be merciful  
 (5.) to him. See how many things the Three Children suffered,  
 though they had done no harm. They lost country, liberty,  
 were taken captive, and made slaves ; and when carried  
 away into a foreign and barbarous land, were even on the

Dan. 2, point of being slain on account of the dream, without cause  
 13. or object<sup>1</sup>. What then ? When they had entered in with  
 1 εἰς τὴν καὶ μὲν- Daniel, what prayed they ? What said they ? Dash down  
 σην. Nabuchodonosor, pull down his diadem, hurl him from  
 the throne ? Nothing of this sort ; but they desired *mercies*

Dan. 2, *of God.* And when they were in the furnace, likewise. But  
 18. LXX. not so ye : but when ye suffer far less than they, and often-  
 times justly, ye cease not to vent ten thousand imprecations.  
 And one saith, ‘ Strike down my enemy as Thou over-  
 whelmedst the chariot of Pharaoh ;’ another, ‘ Blast his flesh ;’  
 another again, ‘ Requite it on his children.’ Recognise ye  
 not these words ? Whence then is this your laughter ? Seest  
 thou how laughable this is, when it is uttered without passion.  
 And so all sin then discovereth how vile it is, when thou  
 strippest it of the state of mind of the perpetrator. Shouldest  
 thou remind one who has been angered, of the words which  
 he said in his passion, he will sink for shame, and scorn  
 himself, and will wish he had suffered a thousand punish-  
 ments, rather than those words to be his. And shouldest

thou, when the embrace is over, bring the unchaste to the <sup>2 COR.</sup>  
woman he sinned with, he too will turn away from her as II. 17.  
disgusting. And so do ye, because ye are not under the  
influence of the passion, laugh now. For worthy to be  
laughed at are they, and the words of drunken old gossips ;  
and springing from a womanish littleness of soul. And yet  
Joseph, though he had been sold, and made a slave, and  
had tenanted a prison, uttered not even then a bitter word  
against the authors of his sorrows. But what saith he ?  
*Indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews ;* <sup>Gen. 40,</sup>  
and addeth not by whom. <sup>15.</sup> For he feels more ashamed for  
the wickednesses of his brethren, than they who wrought  
them. Such too ought to be our disposition, to grieve for  
them who wrong us, more than they themselves do. For the  
hurt passeth on to them. As then they who kick against  
nails, yet are proud of it, are fit objects of pity and lament-  
ation on account of this madness ; so they who injure those  
that do them no evil, inasmuch as they wound their own  
souls, are fit objects for many moans and lamentations,  
not for curses. For nothing is more polluted than a soul  
that curseth, or more impure than a tongue that offereth  
such sacrifices. Thou art a man ; vomit not forth the poison  
of asps. Thou art a man ; become not a wild beast. For  
this was thy mouth made, not that thou shouldest bite, but  
that thou shouldest heal the wounds of others. ‘ Remember  
the charge I have given thee,’ saith God, ‘ to pardon and  
forgive. But thou beseechest Me also to be a party to the  
overthrow of My own commandments, and devourest thy  
brother, and reddenest thy tongue, as madmen do their teeth  
on their own members.’ How, thinkest thou, the devil is  
pleased and laughs, when he hears such a prayer ? and how,  
that God is provoked, and turneth from and abhorreth thee,  
when thou beseechest things like these ? Than which, what  
can be more dangerous ? For if none should approach the  
mysteries that hath enemies : how must not he, that not only  
hath, but also prayeth against them, be excluded even from  
the outer courts themselves ? Thinking then on these  
things, and considering the Subject<sup>1</sup> of the Sacrifice, that <sup>ἡ προσφορά</sup>  
He was sacrificed for enemies ; let us not have an enemy :

HOMIL. and if we have, let us pray for him; that we too having  
V. obtained forgiveness of the sins we have committed, may  
stand with boldness at the tribunal of Christ; to Whom be  
glory for ever. Amen<sup>c</sup>.

<sup>c</sup> Ben. Ed. 'to Whom be glory, power, and honour, now and ever, and world  
without end. Amen.'

## HOMILY VI.

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2 COR. iii. 1.

*Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?*

HE anticipates and hath put himself an objection, which others would have urged against him, 'Thou vauntest thyself;' and this though he had before employed so strong a corrective in the expressions, *Who is sufficient for these things?* <sup>2 Cor. 2, 16. 17.</sup> and, *of sincerity . . . speak we.* Howbeit he is not satisfied with these. For such is his character. From appearing to say any thing great of himself he is far removed, and avoids it even to great superfluity and excess. And mark, I pray thee, by this instance also, the abundance of his wisdom. For a thing of woeful aspect, I mean tribulations, he so much exalted, and shewed to be so bright and lustrous, that out of what he said the present objection rose up against him. And he does so also towards the end. For after having enumerated numberless perils, insults, straits, necessities, and as many such like things as be, he added, *We commend* <sup>2 Cor. 5, 12.</sup> *not ourselves, but give you occasion to glory.* And he expresses this again with vehemence in that place, and with more of encouragement. For here the words are those of love, *Need we, as some, epistles of commendation?* but there what he says is full of a kind of pride even, necessarily and properly so, of pride, I say, and anger. *For we commend not ourselves again,* saith he, *but give* <sup>2 Cor. 5, 12.</sup> *you occasion to glory;* and, *Again, think ye that we* <sup>ib. 12, 19. 20.</sup>

HOMIL. VI. *excuse ourselves unto you, for<sup>a</sup> we speak before God in Christ. For I fear lest when I come I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not.* For to prevent all appearance of a wish to flatter, as though he desired honour from them, he speaketh thus, *I fear lest when I come I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not.* This however comes after many accusations<sup>b</sup>; but in the beginning he speaketh not so, but more gently. And what is it he saith? He spoke of his trials and his perils, and that every where he is conducted as in procession<sup>1</sup> by God in Christ, and that the whole world knoweth of these triumphs. Since then he has uttered great things of himself, he urges this objection against himself, *Do we begin again to commend ourselves?* Now what he saith is this: Perchance some one will object against us, ‘What is this, O Paul? Sayest thou these things of thyself, and exaltest thyself?’ To do away then with this suspicion, he saith, We desire not this, that is, to boast and exalt ourselves; yea, so far are we from needing epistles of commendation to you, that ye are to us instead of an epistle. *For*, saith he,

Ver. 2. *Ye are our epistle.*

What means this, *ye are*? ‘Did we need to be commended to others, we should have produced you before them instead of an epistle.’ And this he said in the former Epistle. *For the seal of mine Apostleship are ye.* But he doth not here say it in this manner, but in irony, so as to make his question, *Do we need epistles of commendation?* more cutting. And in allusion to the false apostles, he added, *as some, [epistles of commendation] to you, or letters of commendation from you*, to others. Then because what he had said was severe, he softens it, by adding, *Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known of all*,

Ver. 3. Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ.

Here he testifieth not only to their love, but also to their good works: if indeed they are able (as he says) to shew unto

<sup>a</sup> *ἡμεῖς*, which is not found in the Received text.

<sup>b</sup> Others read, “with much accusation.”

<sup>1</sup> *πομπή*  
*πύξιν*

1 Cor.  
9, 2.



all men by their own virtue the high worth of their teacher, <sup>2 COR.</sup> for this is the meaning of, *Ye are our epistle.* III. 3.

What letters would have done to commend and gain respect for us, that ye do both as seen and heard of; for the virtue of the disciples is wont to adorn and to commend the teacher more than any letter.

Ver. 3. *Written in our hearts.*

That is, which all know; we so bear you about every where, and have you in mind. As though he said, Ye are our commendation to others, for we both have you continually in our heart, and proclaim to all your good works. Because then that even to others yourselves are our commendation, we need no epistles from you; but further, because we love you exceedingly, we need no commendation to you. For to those who are strangers one hath need of letters, but ye are in our mind. Yet he said not merely, *ye are* [in it], but, *written in* [it], that is, ye cannot slide out of it. For just as from letters, by reading, so from our heart, by perceiving, all are acquainted with the love we bear you. If then the object of a letter be, to certify, "such an one is my friend, and let him have free intercourse [with you]," your love is sufficient to secure all this. For should we go to you, we have no need of others to commend us, seeing your love anticipateth this; and should we go to others, again we need no letters, the same love again sufficing unto us in their stead, for we carry about the epistle in our hearts. (2.)

[2.] Then exalting them still higher, he even calleth them the epistle of Christ, saying,

Ver. 3. Forasmuch as ye are *manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ.*

And having said this, he afterwards hence takes ground and occasion for a discussion on the Law. And there is another<sup>1</sup> aim in his here styling them His epistle. For above as commending him, he called them an epistle; but here an epistle of Christ, as having the Law of God written in them. For, what things God wished to declare to all and to you, these are written in your hearts. But it was we, who prepared you to receive the writing. For just as Moses hewed the stones and tables, so we, your souls. Whence he saith,

*Ministered by us.*

HOMIL. VI. Yet in this they were on an equality; for the former were written on by God, and these by the Spirit. Where then is the difference?

*Written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

Wide as the difference between the Spirit and ink, and a stony table and a fleshy, so wide is that between these and those; consequently between themselves<sup>1</sup> who ministered, and him<sup>2</sup> who ministered to them. Yet because it was a great thing

<sup>2</sup> Moses. he had uttered, he therefore quickly checks himself, saying,

Ver. 4. *And such trust have we through Christ to Godward,*

And again refers all to God: for it is Christ, saith he, Who is the Author of these things to us.

Ver. 5. *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves.*

See again, yet another corrective. For he possesses this virtue, humility I mean, in singular perfection. Wherefore whenever he saith any thing great of himself, he maketh all diligence to soften down extremely, and by every means, what he has said. And so he does in this place also, saying, *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves:* that is, I said not, *We have trust,* as though part were ours and part God's; but I refer and ascribe the whole to Him.

Ver. 5, 6. *For<sup>3</sup> our sufficiency is of God. Who also hath made us sufficient ministers of the New Testament.*

<sup>3</sup> γὰρ.  
Rec.  
text,  
ἀλλὰ.

What means, *made us sufficient*? Made us able and fitting. And it is not a little thing to be the bearer to the world of such tables and letters, greater far than the former. Whence also he added,

*Not of the letter, but of the spirit.* See again another difference. What then? was not that Law spiritual? How Rom. 7, then saith he, *We know that the Law is spiritual?* Spiritual indeed, but it bestowed not a spirit. For Moses bare not a spirit, but letters; but we have been entrusted with the giving of a spirit. Whence also in further completion of this [contrast,] he saith,

*For the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

<sup>4</sup> ἀπλῶς. Yet these things he saith not absolutely<sup>4</sup>; but in allusion to those who prided themselves upon the things of Judaism.

And by *letter* here he meaneth the Law, which punisheth <sup>2 COR.</sup> them that transgress; but by *spirit* the grace, which through <sup>III. 6.</sup> Baptism giveth life to them who by sins were made dead. For having mentioned the difference arising from the nature of the tables, he doth not dwell upon it, but rapidly passing it by, bestows more labour upon this, which most enabled him to lay hold on his hearer, from considerations of what was advantageous and easy; for, saith he, it is not laborious, and the gift it offers is greater. For if when discoursing of Christ, he puts especially forward those things which are of His lovingkindness, more than of His merit, and which are mutually connected, much greater necessity is there for his doing so when treating of the covenant. What then is the meaning of *the letter killeth*? He had said tables of stone and fleshy hearts: so far he seemed to mention no great difference. He added, that the former [covenant] was written with letters or ink, but this with the Spirit. Neither did this rouse them thoroughly. He says at last what is indeed enough to give them wings<sup>1</sup>; the one <sup>1 πνεῦμα. σαι.</sup> *killeth*, the other *giveth life*. And what doth this mean? In (3.) the Law, he that hath sin is punished; here, he that hath sins cometh and is baptized, and is made righteous, and being made righteous, he liveth, being delivered from the death of sin. The Law, if it lay hold on a murderer, putteth him to death; the Gospel, if it lay hold on a murderer, enlighteneth, and giveth him life. And why do I instance a murderer? The Law laid hold on one that gathered sticks <sup>Numb. 15, 32—36.</sup> on a sabbath day, and stoned him. This is the meaning of, *the letter killeth*. The Gospel takes hold on thousands of homicides and robbers, and baptizing delivereth them from their former vices. This is the meaning of, *the Spirit giveth life*. The former maketh its captive dead from being alive, the latter rendereth the man it hath convicted alive from being dead. For, *come unto me, ye that labour and are heavy laden*, and, He said not, 'I will punish you,' but, *I will refresh you*. <sup>Matt. 11, 28.</sup> For in Baptism the sins are buried, the former things are blotted out, the man made alive, the entire grace written upon his heart, as it were a table. Consider then how high is the dignity of the Spirit, seeing that His tables are better than those former ones; seeing that even a greater

HOMIL. VI. thing is shewn forth than the resurrection itself. For indeed, that state of death, from which He delivers, is more irremediable than the former one: as much more so, as soul is of more value than body: and this life is conferred by that, by that which the Spirit giveth. But if It be able to bestow this, much more then that which is less. For, that prophets wrought, but this they could not: for none can remit sins but God only; nor did the prophets bestow that life without the Spirit. But this is not the marvel only, that it giveth life, but that it conferred on others also the power to do this.

John 20, 22. For He saith, *Receive ye the Holy Ghost*. Wherefore?

Because without the Spirit it might not be? [Yes,] but God, as shewing that It is of supreme authority; and of that Kingly Essence, and hath the same power [with Himself,] saith this too. Whence also He adds, *Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained*.

MORAL. [3.] Since then It hath given us life, let us abide alive, and not return again to the former deadness: for *Christ dieth no more; for in that He died, He died unto sin once*: and He will not have us always saved by grace: for so we shall be empty of all things. Wherefore He will have us contribute something also from ourselves. Let us then contribute, and preserve to the soul its life. And what is life in a soul, learn from the body. For the body too we then affirm to live, when it moves with a healthy kind of motion; but when it lies prostrate and powerless, or its motions are disorderly, though it retain the semblance of life or motion, the life, which is such, is more grievous than any death: and should it utter nothing sane, but words of the crazy, and see one object in place of another, such a man again is more pitiable than those who are dead. So also the soul, when it hath no healthiness, though it retain a semblance of life, is dead: when it doth not see gold as gold, but as something great and precious; when it thinketh not of the future, but crawleth upon the ground; when it doth one thing in place of another. For whence is it clear that we have a soul? Is it not from its operations? When then it doth not perform the things proper to it, is it not dead? when, for instance, it hath no care for virtue, but is rapacious, and transgresseth the

law; whence can I tell that thou hast a soul? Because thou walkest? But this belongs to the irrational creatures as well. 2 COR.  
III. 6. Because thou eatest and drinkest? But this too belongeth to wild beasts. Well then, because thou standest upright on two feet? This convinceth me rather that thou art a beast in human form. For when thou resemblest one in all other respects, but not in its manner of erecting itself, thou dost the more disturb and terrify me; and I the more consider that which I see to be a monster. For did I see a beast speaking with the voice of a man, I should not for that very reason say it was a man, but even for that very reason a beast more monstrous than a beast. Whence then can I learn that thou hast the soul of a man, when thou kickest like the ass, when thou bearest malice like the camel, when thou bitest like the bear, when thou ravenest like the wolf, when thou stealest like the fox, when thou art wily as the serpent, when thou art shameless as the dog? Whence can I learn that thou hast the soul of a man? Will ye that I shew you a dead soul and a living? Let us turn the discourse back to those men of old; and, if you will, let us set before us the rich man [in the story] of Lazarus, and we shall know what is death in a soul; for he had a dead soul, and it is plain from what he did. For, of the works of the soul, he did not one, but ate, and drank, and lived in pleasure only. Such are even now the unmerciful and cruel, for these too have a dead soul as he had. For all its warmth, that floweth out of the love of our neighbour, hath been spent, and it is deader than a lifeless body. But the poor man was not such, but standing on the very summit of heavenly wisdom, he shone out; and though wrestling with continual hunger, and not even supplied with the food that was necessary, not even so, spake he ought of blasphemy against God, but endured all nobly. Now this is no trifling work of the soul; but a very high proof that it is well-strung and healthful. And when there are not these qualities, it is plainly because the soul is dead, that they have perished. Or, tell me, shall we not pronounce that soul dead, which the Devil falls upon, striking, biting, spurning it, yet hath it no sense of any of these things, but lieth deadened, nor grieveth when being robbed of its wealth; but he even leapeth upon it, (4.)



HOMIL. VI. yet it remaineth unmoved, like a body when the soul is departed, nor even feeleth it? For when the fear of God is not present together with strictness, such must the soul needs be, and than the dead more miserable. For the soul is not dissolved into corruption, and ashes, and dust, but into those things of fouler odour than these, into drunkenness, and anger, and covetousness, into improper loves, and unseasonable desires. But if thou wouldest know more exactly how foul an odour it hath, give me a soul that is pure, and then thou wilt see clearly how foul the odour of this filthy and impure one. For at present thou wilt not be able to perceive it. For so long as we are in contact habitually with a foul odour, we are not sensible of it. But when we are fed with spiritual words, then shall we be cognizant of that evil. And yet to many this seemeth of no importance<sup>1</sup>. And I say nothing as yet of hell: but let us, if you will, examine what is present, and how worthy of derision is he, not that practiseth, but that uttereth filthiness; how first he loadeth himself with contumely; just as one that sputtereth any filth from the mouth, so he defiles himself. For if the stream is so impure, think what must be the fountain of this filth! *for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.* Yet not for this alone do I grieve, but because that to some this doth not even seem to be reckoned amongst improper things. Hence the evils are all made worse, when we both sin, and do not think we even do amiss.

<sup>1</sup> ἀδιάφορον.

Mat. 12, 34.

[4.] Wilt thou then learn how great an evil is filthy talking? See how the hearers blush at thy indecency. For what is viler than a filthy talker? what more infamous? For such thrust themselves into the rank of buffoons, and that of prostituted women, yea rather these have more shame than you. How canst thou teach a wife to be modest, when by such language thou art training her to proceed unto lasciviousness? Better vent rottenness from the mouth than a filthy word. Now if thy mouth have an ill odour, thou partakest not even of the common meats; when then thou hast so foul a stink in thy soul, tell me, hast thou the hardihood to partake of mysteries? Did any one take a dirty vessel, and set it upon thy table, thou wouldest have beaten him with clubs, and driven him out: yet God at His own table, (for His table our mouth, when filled with

thanksgiving is,) when thou pourest out words more disgusting <sup>2 COR.</sup> than the uncleanest vessel, tell me, dost thou think that thou <sup>III. 3.</sup> provokest not? And how is this possible? For nothing doth so exasperate the holy and pure as do such words; nothing makes men so impudent<sup>1</sup> and shameless as to say and listen <sup>1</sup> *ἱταμὸς* to such; nothing doth so unstring the sinews of modesty, as the flame which these kindle. God hath set perfumes in thy mouth, but thou storest up words of fouler odour than a corpse, and destroyest the soul itself, and makest it incapable of motion. For when thou insultest, this is not the voice of the soul, but of anger; when thou talkest filthily, it is lewdness, and not she that spake; when thou detractest, it is envy; when thou schemest, covetousness. These are not her works, but those of the affections<sup>2</sup> and the diseases belonging to her. <sup>2</sup> *παθῶν*. As then corruption cometh not simply of the body, but of death, and the affection which is thus in the body; so also, in truth, these things come of the affections which grow upon the soul. For if thou wilt hear a voice from a living soul, hear Paul saying, *Having food and raiment, let us be* <sup>1 Tim.</sup> *therewith content:* and, *Godliness is great gain:* and, *The* <sup>6, 8.</sup> *world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.* Hear <sup>ib. 6.</sup> Peter saying, *Silver and gold have I none, but such as I* <sup>Gal. 6,</sup> *have, give I thee.* Hear Job giving thanks, and saying, *The* <sup>14.</sup> *Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away.* These things are <sup>Acts 3,</sup> the words of a living soul, these, of a soul discharging the functions proper to it. Thus also Jacob said, *If the Lord* <sup>Gen. 28,</sup> *will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on.* Thus <sup>20.</sup> also Joseph, *How shall I do this wickedness, and sin before* <sup>ib. 39, 9.</sup> *God?* But not so that barbarian woman; but as one drunken and insane<sup>3</sup>, so spake she, saying, *Lie with me.* <sup>ibid. 7.</sup> These things then knowing, let us earnestly covet that living <sup>3</sup> *παρὰ-παιύουσα* soul, let us flee that dead one, that we may also obtain the life to come; of which may all we be made partakers, through the grace and love toward men of our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom and with Whom, to the Father, together with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

## HOMILY VII.

2 COR. iii. 7, 8.

*But if the ministration of death, in letters, engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses, for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: how shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious?*

HE said that the tables of Moses were of stone, as [also] that they were written with letters; and that these were fleshy, I mean the hearts of the Apostles, and had been written on by the Spirit; and that the letter indeed killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. There was yet wanting to this comparison the addition of a further and not trifling particular, that of the glory of Moses; such as in the case of the New Covenant none saw with the eyes of the body. And even for this cause it appeared a great thing, in that the glory was perceived by the senses; (for it was seen by the bodily eyes, even though it might not be approached;) but that of the New Covenant is perceived by the understanding. For to the weaker sort the apprehension of a superiority of this nature is not clear; but that other did more take them, and turn them unto itself. Having then fallen upon this comparison, and being set upon shewing the superiority [in question], which yet was exceedingly difficult because of the dulness of the hearers; see what he does, and with what method<sup>1</sup> he proceeds in it, first by arguments placing the difference before them, and constructing these out of what he had said before.

<sup>1</sup> μισθο-  
δύμι

For if that ministration were of death, but this of life, doubtless, saith he, the latter glory is also greater than the former. 2 COR.  
III. 8. For since he could not exhibit it to the bodily eyes, by this logical inference he established its superiority, saying,

Ver. 8. *But if the ministration of death was glorious, how shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious?*

Now by *ministration of death* he means the Law. And mark too how great the caution he uses in the comparison, so as to give no handle to the heretics; for he said not, 'which causeth death,' but, *the ministration of death*; for it ministereth unto, but was not the parent of, death; for that which caused death was sin; but [the Law] brought in the punishment, and shewed the sin, not caused it. For it more distinctly revealed the evil, and punished it: it did not impel unto the evil: and it ministered not to the existence of sin or death, but to the suffering of retribution by the sinner. So that in this way it was even destructive of sin. For that which sheweth it to be so fearful, it is obvious, maketh it also to be avoided. As then he that taketh the sword in his hands and cutteth off the condemned, ministers to the judge that passeth sentence, and it is not he that is his destruction, although he cutteth him off; nay, nor yet is he so, who passeth sentence and condemneth, but the wickedness of him that is punished; so truly here also it is not that<sup>1</sup> destroyeth, but sin. This did both destroy and condemn, but that by punishing undermined its strength, by the fear of the punishment holding it back. But he was not content with this consideration only in order to establish the superiority [in question]; but he addeth yet another, saying, *in letters, engraven in stones*. See how he again cuts at the root of the Jewish arrogancy. For the Law was nothing else but letters: a certain succour was not found leaping forth from out the letters, and inspiring them that combat, as is the case in Baptism; but pillars and writings bearing death to those who transgress the letters. Seest thou how, in correcting the Jewish contentiousness, by his very expressions even he lessens its authority, speaking of stone, and letters, and a ministration of death, and adding that it was engraven? For hereby he declareth nothing else than this, that the Law was fixed in one place; not, as the Spirit,

HOMIL. VII. was present in all places, breathing great might into all; or that the letters breathe much threatening, and threatening too, which can not be effaced, but remaineth for ever, as being engraved in stone. Then, even whilst seeming to praise the old things, he again mixeth up accusation of the Jews. For having said, *in letters engraven in stones, was glorious*, he added, *so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses*; which was a mark of their great weakness and grovelling spirit. And again he doth not say, 'for the glory of the tables,' but, *for the glory of his countenance, which was to be done away*; for he sheweth that he who beareth them is made glorious, and not they. For he said not, 'because they could not stedfastly behold the tables,' but, *the face of Moses*; and again, not, 'for the glory of the tables,' but, *for the glory of his countenance*. Then after he had extolled it, see how again he lowers it, saying, *which was to be done away*. Not however that this is in accusation, but in diminution; for he did not say, 'which was corrupt, which was evil,' but, 'which ceaseth and hath an end.'

*How shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather glorious?* for henceforth with confidence he extolleth the things of the New [Covenant] as indisputable. And observe what he doth. He opposed 'stone' to 'heart,' and 'letter' to 'spirit.' Then having shewn the results of each, he doth not set down the results of each; but having set down the work of the letter, namely, death and condemnation, he setteth not down that of the spirit, life, namely, and righteousness; but the Spirit Itself; which added greatness to the argument. For the New Covenant not only gave life, but supplied also 'The Spirit' Which giveth the life, a far greater thing than the life. Wherefore he said, *the ministration of the Spirit*. Then he again reverts to the same thing, saying,

Ver. 9. *For if the ministration of condemnation be glory.*

- (2.) Also, he interprets more clearly the meaning of the words, *The letter killeth*, declaring it to be that which we have said above, namely, that the Law shewed sin, not caused it.

*Much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.*

For those Tables indeed shewed the sinners, and pu-



nished them, but this not only did not punish the sinners, <sup>2 COR.</sup> but even made them righteous: for this did Baptism confer. <sup>III.</sup> 10—12.

[2.] Ver. 10. *For that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excellet.*

Now in what has gone before, indeed, he shewed that this also is with glory; and not simply is with glory, but even exceedeth in it: for he did not say, *How shall not the ministration of the Spirit be rather in glory?* but, *exceed in glory*; deriving the proof from the arguments before stated. Here he also shews the superiority, how great it is, saying, 'if I compare this with that, the glory of the Old Covenant is not glory at all;' not absolutely laying down that there was no glory, but in respect of the comparison. Wherefore also he added, *in this respect*, that is, in respect of the comparison. Not that this doth disparage the Old Covenant, yea rather it highly commendeth it: for comparisons are wont to be made between things which are the same in kind. Next, he sets on foot yet another argument to prove the superiority also from a fresh ground. What then is this argument? That based upon duration, saying,

Ver. 11. *For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.*

For the one ceased, but the other abideth continually.

Ver. 12. *Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness<sup>1</sup> of speech.*

For since, when he had heard so many and so great things concerning the New [Covenant,] the hearer would be desirous of seeing this glory manifested to the eye, mark whither he hurleth him, [even] to the world to come. Wherefore also he brought forward the *hope*, saying, *Seeing then that we have such hope*. Such? Of what nature? That we have been counted worthy of greater things than Moses; not we the Apostles only, but also all the faithful. *We use great plainness of speech*. Towards whom? tell me. Towards God, or towards the disciples? Towards you who are being instructed, he saith; that is, we speak every where with freedom, hiding nothing, withholding nothing, mistrusting nothing, but speaking openly; and we have not feared lest we should wound your eyesight, as Moses did that of the Jews. For that he alluded to this, hear what follows; or

<sup>1</sup>Marg.  
Or bold-  
ness

HOMIL. rather, it is necessary first of all to relate the history, for he  
 VII. himself keeps dwelling upon it. What then is the history?

When, having received the Tables a second time, Moses came down, a certain glory darting from his countenance shone so much, that the Jews were not able to approach and talk with him, until he put a vail over his face. And thus it  
 Ex. 34, is written in Exodus, *When Moses came down from the*  
 29—34. *Mount, the two Tables [were] in his hands. And Moses wist not that the skin of his countenance was made glorious to behold. And they were afraid to come nigh him. And*  
<sup>1</sup> *ἰαυδῆν*, *Moses called them, and spake unto them. And when<sup>1</sup> Moses*  
 so also LXX. *had done speaking with them, he put a vail over his face.*  
 E. V. *But when he went in before the Lord, to speak [with Him],*  
 “till.” *he took the vail off until he came out.*

Putting them in mind then of this history, he says,

Ver. 13. *And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished.*

Now what he says is of this nature. There is no need for us to cover ourselves as Moses did; for ye are able to look upon this glory which we are encircled with, although it is far greater and brighter than the other. Seest thou their  
 1 Cor. advance? For he that in the former Epistle said, *I have fed*  
 3, 2. *you with milk, and not with meat; saith here, We use much plainness of speech.* And he produces Moses before them, carrying forward the discourse by means of comparison, and thus leading his hearer upwards.

And for the present he sets them above the Jews, saying that ‘we have no need of a vail, as he<sup>2</sup> had with those he governed;’ but in what comes afterwards he advances them even to the dignity itself of the Lawgiver, or even to a much greater.

Mean time, however, let us hear what follows next.

Ver. 14. *But their minds were blinded, for until this day remaineth the same vail in the reading of the Old Testament,*  
 [it] *not being revealed to them<sup>3</sup>, that it is done away in Christ.*  
 See what he establisheth by this. For what happened then, once, in the case of Moses, the same happeneth continually in the case of the Law. What is said, therefore, is no accusation of the Law, as neither is it of Moses that he

<sup>3</sup> So he reads; see next page.

<sup>2</sup> i. e. Moses.

then veiled himself, but only the senseless Jews. For the <sup>2 COR.</sup> law hath its proper glory, but they were unable to see it. <sup>III. 14.</sup> 'Why therefore are ye perplexed,' he saith, 'if they are unable to see this glory of the Grace, since they saw not that lesser one of Moses, nor were able to look stedfastly upon his countenance? And why are ye troubled, that the Jews believe not Christ, seeing at least, that they believe not even the law? For they were therefore ignorant of the Grace also, because they knew not even the old covenant, nor the glory which was in it. For the glory of the Law is to turn [men] unto Christ.'

[3.] Seest thou how from this consideration also he takes (3.) down the inflation of the Jews? By that in which they thought they had the advantage, namely, that Moses' face shone, he proves their grossness and grovelling nature. Let them not therefore pride themselves on that, for what was that to Jews, those who enjoyed it not? Wherefore also he keeps on dwelling upon it, saying one while, *The same vail in the reading of the Old Testament remaineth, it not being revealed, that it is done away in Christ:* another while, that *unto this* <sup>v. 15.</sup> *day when Moses is read, the same vail lieth upon their heart;* shewing that the vail lieth both on the reading and on their heart; and above, *So that the children of Israel could not* <sup>v. 7.</sup> *stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away.* Than which what could mark less worth in them? Seeing that even of a glory that is to be done away, or rather is in comparison no glory at all, they are not able to be spectators, but it is covered from them, *so that they could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished;* that is, of the law, because it hath an end; *but their minds were blinded.* 'And what,' saith one, 'hath this to do with the vail then?' Because it prefigured what would be. For not only did they not then perceive; but they do not even now see the Law. And the fault lies with themselves, for the blindness is that of an unimpressible and perverse judgment. So that it is we who know the Law also; but to them not only Grace, but this as well is covered with a shadow; *For until this day the same vail upon the reading of the Old Testament remaineth,* he saith, *it not being revealed, that it is done away in Christ.*

HOMIL. VII. Now what he saith is this. This very thing they cannot see, that it is brought to an end, because they believe not Christ. For if it be brought to an end by Christ, as in truth it is brought to an end, and this the Law said by anticipation, how will they, who receive not Christ that hath done away the Law, be able to see that the Law is done away? And being incapable of seeing this, it is very plain that even of the Law itself which asserted these things, they know not the power, nor the full glory. ‘And where,’ saith one, ‘did it say this that it is done away in Christ?’ It did not say it merely, but also shewed it by what was done. And first indeed by shutting up its sacrifices and its whole ritual<sup>1</sup> in one place, the Temple, and afterwards destroying this. For had He not meant to bring these to an end, and the whole of the Law concerning them, He would have done one or other of two things; either not destroyed the Temple, or, having destroyed it, not forbidden to sacrifice elsewhere. But, as it is, the whole world, and even Jerusalem itself, He hath made forbidden ground for such religious rites; having allowed and appointed for them only the Temple. Then, having destroyed this itself afterwards, He shewed completely even by what was done, that the things of the Law are brought to an end by Christ; for the Temple also Christ destroyed. But if thou wilt see in words as well, how the Law is done away in Christ, hear the Lawgiver himself speaking thus; *A Prophet shall the Lord raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall command you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed*<sup>a</sup>. Seest thou, how the Law shewed that it is done away in Christ? For this Prophet, that is, Christ according to the flesh, Whom Moses commanded them to hear, made to cease both sabbath, and circumcision, and all the other things. And David too, shewing the very same thing, said concerning Ps. 110, Christ, *Thou art a Priest after the order of Melchisedec*, not after the order of Aaron. Wherefore also Paul, giving a clear interpretation of this, says, *The priesthood being changed*, there is made of necessity a change also of the Law. And Heb. 10, in another place also he says again, *Sacrifice and offering*

<sup>1</sup> ἀγιστερίαν.

Deut.  
18, 15.  
19.

Acts 3,  
22, 23.

Ps. 110,  
4.

Heb. 7,  
12.

Heb. 10,  
5—7.

<sup>a</sup> So Chrysostom, though the LXX agrees with the E. V.



*Thou wouldest not. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin Thou hast had no pleasure: then said I, Lo, I come.* <sup>2 Cor. III. 15, 16.</sup>

And other testimonies, far more numerous than these, may be adduced out of the Old Testament, shewing how the Law is done away by Christ. So that when thou shalt have forsaken the Law, thou shalt then see the Law clearly; but so long as thou holdest by it, and believest not Christ, thou knowest not even the Law itself. Wherefore also he added, to establish this very thing more clearly;

Ver. 15. *But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail lieth upon their heart.*

For since he said that in the reading of the Old Testament the vail remaineth, lest any should think that this that is said is from the obscurity of the Law, he both by other things shewed even before what his meaning was, (for by saying, *their minds were blinded*, he shews that the fault was their own,) and, in this place too, again. For he said not, 'The vail remaineth on the writing,' but *in the reading*; (now the reading is the act of those that read;) and again, *When Moses is read*. He shewed this however with greater clearness in the expression which follows next, saying unreservedly, *The vail lieth upon their heart*. For even upon the face of Moses it lay, not because of Moses, but because of the grossness and carnal mind of these.

[4.] Having then suitably<sup>1</sup> accused them, he points out also the manner of their correction. And what is this? <sup>(4.)</sup> <sup>1</sup> *ἰκανώς.*

Ver. 16. *Nevertheless when [one] shall turn to the Lord, which is, to forsake the Law, the vail shall be taken away.*

Seest thou that not over the face of Moses was there that vail, but over the eyesight of the Jews? For it was done, not that the glory of Moses might be hidden, but that the Jews might not see. For they were not capable. So that in them was the deficiency, for it<sup>2</sup> caused not him to be ignorant of any thing, but them. And he did not say indeed, "when thou shalt let go the Law," but he implied it, for "when thou shalt turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away." To the very last he<sup>3</sup> kept to the history. For when Moses<sup>3</sup> talked with the Jews, he kept his face covered; but when he turned to God, it was uncovered. Now this was a type of that which was to come to pass, that when we

<sup>2</sup> Or, "He."  
<sup>3</sup> St. Paul.



HOMIL. have turned to the Lord, then we shall see the glory of the  
 VII. Law, and the face of the Lawgiver bare; yea rather, not this alone, but we shall then be even in the same rank with Moses. Seest thou, how he inviteth the Jew unto the faith, by shewing, that by coming unto Grace he is able not only to see Moses, but also to stand in the very same rank with the Lawgiver. 'For not only,' he saith, 'shalt thou look on the glory which then thou sawest not, but thou shalt, thyself also, be included in the same glory; yea rather, of a greater glory, even so great, that that other shall not seem glory at all, compared with this.' How, and in what manner? 'Because that when thou hast turned to the Lord, and art included in the grace, thou wilt enjoy that glory, unto which the glory of Moses, if compared, is so much less, as to be no glory at all. But still, small though it be, and exceedingly below that other, whilst thou art a Jew, even this will not be vouchsafed thee<sup>b</sup>; but having become a believer, it will then be vouchsafed thee to behold even that, which is far greater than it.' And when he was addressing himself to the believers, he said, that *that which was made glorious had no glory*; but here he speaks not so; but how? *When one shall have turned to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away*: leading him up by little and little, and first setting him in Moses' rank, and then making him partaker of the greater things. For when thou hast seen Moses in glory, then afterwards thou shalt also turn unto God, and enjoy this greater glory.

[5.] See then from the beginning, how many things he has laid down, as constituting the difference, and shewing the superiority, not the enmity or contradiction, of the New Covenant in respect to the old. That, saith he, is letter, and stone, and a ministration of death, and is done away: and

<sup>1</sup> Or, the yet the Jews were not even vouchsafed this glory<sup>1</sup>. This  
 glory of table is fleshy, and spirit, and righteousness, and remaineth;  
 this. and unto all of us is it vouchsafed, not to one only, as to

ver. 18. Moses of the lesser then. For, saith he, *we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord*, not that of Moses. But since some maintain that the expression, *when*

<sup>b</sup> Two MSS. insert here, "the Jews they now;" but Mr. Field rejects the of that day therefore saw it not, nor do insertion.

one shall have turned to the Lord, is spoken of the Son, in <sup>2 COR.</sup> contradiction to what is quite acknowledged; let us examine <sup>III.</sup> the point more accurately, having first stated the ground, on <sup>17, 18.</sup> which they think to establish this. What then is this? Like, saith one, as it is said, *God is a Spirit*; so also <sup>John 4,</sup> here, 'The Lord is a Spirit.' But he did not say, 'The Lord <sup>24.</sup> is a Spirit,' but, *The Spirit is that Lord*. And there is a great difference between this construction and that. For when he is desirous of speaking so as you say, he does not join the article to the predicate. And besides, let us review all his discourse from the first, of whom hath he spoken? for instance, when he said, *The letter killeth, but the Spirit* <sup>ver. 6.</sup> *giveth life*: and again, *Written not with ink, but with the* <sup>ver. 3.</sup> *Spirit of the living God*; was he speaking of God, or of the Spirit? It is very plain that it was of the Spirit; for unto It he was calling them from the letter. For lest any, hearing of the Spirit, and then reflecting if Moses turned unto the Lord, but himself unto the Spirit, should think himself to have the worse, to correct such a suspicion as this, he says,

Ver. 17. *Now the Spirit is that Lord.*

This too is Lord, he says. And that you may know that he is speaking of the Paraclete, he added,

*And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

For surely you will not assert, that he says, 'And where the Lord of the Lord is.' *Liberty*, he said, with reference to the former bondage. Then, that you may not think that he is speaking of a time to come, he says,

Ver. 18. *But we all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord.*

Not that which is brought to an end, but that which remaineth.

*Are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Lord the Spirit.*

Seest thou how again he places the Spirit in the rank of God, <sup>vide</sup> and raises them up to the rank of the Apostles. For he said <sup>infra.</sup> before, *Ye are the Epistle of Christ*; and here, *But we all with open face*. Yet they came, like Moses, bringing a law. But like as we, he says, needed no vail, so neither ye who received it. And yet this glory is far greater, for this is not of our countenance, but of the Spirit; but nevertheless ye

HOMIL. are able, as well as we, to look stedfastly upon it. For they  
 VII. indeed could not even by a mediator, but ye even without  
 a mediator can [look stedfastly on] a greater. They were not  
 able to look upon that of Moses, ye even upon that of the Spirit.  
 Now had the Spirit been at all inferior, He would not have  
 (5.) set down these things as greater than those. But what is,  
*we beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are  
 changed into the same image.* This indeed was shewn  
 more clearly, when the gifts of miracles were in operation;  
 howbeit it is not even now difficult to see it, for one who  
 hath believing eyes. For as soon as we are baptized, the  
 soul beameth even more than the sun, being cleansed by  
 the Spirit; and not only do we behold the glory of God,  
 but from it also receive a sort of splendour. Just as if pure  
 silver be turned towards the sun's rays, it will itself also  
 shoot forth rays, not from its own natural property merely,  
 but also from the solar lustre; so also doth the soul being  
 cleansed, and made brighter than silver, receive a ray from  
 the glory of the Spirit, and glance it back. Wherefore also  
 he saith, *Beholding as in a glass, we are changed into the  
 same image, from glory, that of the Spirit, to glory, our own,*  
 that which is generated in us; and that, of such sort, as one  
 might expect from the Lord the Spirit. See how here also  
 he calleth the Spirit, Lord. And in other places too one  
 Acts 13, may see that lordship of His. For, saith he, *As they*  
 2. *ministered and fasted unto the Lord, the Spirit said, Sepa-  
 rate me Paul and Barnabas.* For it therefore said, *as they  
 ministered unto the Lord, Separate me,* in order to shew the  
 [Spirit's] equality in honour. And again Christ saith,  
 John 15, *The servant knoweth not what his lord doeth;* but even as a  
 15. man knoweth his own things, so doth the Spirit know the  
 things of God; not by being taught [them,] for so the simi-  
 litude holdeth not good. Also the working as He willeth  
 sheweth His authority and lordship. This changeth us.  
 This suffereth not to be conformed to this world; for such  
 is the creation of which This is the Author. For as he saith,  
 Ephes. *Created in Christ Jesus,* so saith he, *Create in me a clean*  
 2, 10. *heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in my inward parts.*  
 10. LXX. [6.] Wilt thou that I shew thee this from the Apostles also  
 Acts 19, more obviously to the sense. Consider Paul, whose garments  
 12. 5, 15. XX.

wrought: Peter, whose very shadows were mighty. For, <sup>2 COR.</sup> had they not borne a King's image, and their radiancy been <sup>III. 18.</sup> unapproachable, their garments and shadows had not wrought so mightily. For the garments of a king are terrible even to robbers. Wouldest thou see this beaming even through the body? *Looking stedfastly*, saith he, *upon the face of Stephen*, <sup>Acts 6,</sup> *they saw it as it had been the face of an angel.* But this <sup>15.</sup> was nothing to the glory flashing within. For what Moses had upon his countenance, that did these carry about with them on their souls, yea, rather, even far more. For that of Moses indeed was more obvious to the senses, but this was incorporeal. And like as firebright bodies streaming down from the shining bodies, upon those which lie near them, impart to them also somewhat of their own splendour, so truly doth it also happen with the faithful. Therefore surely they, with whom it is thus, are set free from earth, and have their dreams of the things in the heavens. Woe is me! for well is it that we should here even groan bitterly, for that we who enjoy a birth so noble, do not so much as know what is said, because we quickly lose the reality, and are dazzled<sup>1</sup> about the objects of sense. For this glory, <sup>1 ἐκπρόσ-  
θαυε</sup> the unspeakable and awful, remaineth in us for a day or two, and then we quench it, bringing over it the winter of worldly concerns, and with the thickness of those clouds repelling its rays. For worldly things are a winter, and than winter more lowering. For not frost is engendered thence, nor rain, neither doth it produce mire, and deep swamps; but, things than all these more grievous, it formeth hell, and the miseries of hell. And as in severe frost all the limbs are stiffened, and are dead, so truly the soul, shuddering in the winter of sins also, performeth none of its proper functions, stiffened, as it were, by a frost, the conscience. For what cold is to the body, that an evil conscience is to the soul, whence also cometh cowardice. For nothing is more cowardly than the man that is rivetted to worldly things; for such an one lives the life of Cain, trembling every day. And why do I mention deaths, and losses, and offences, and flatteries, and services? for even without these he is in fear of ten thousand vicissitudes. And his coffers indeed are full of gold, but his soul is not



HOMIL. freed from the fear of poverty. And very reasonably. For  
 VII. he is moored, as it were, on rotten and swift shifting things, and even though in his own case he experience not the reverse, yet is he undone by seeing it happen in others; and great is his cowardice, great his unmanliness. For not only is such an one spiritless as to danger, but also as to all other things. And if desire of wealth have assailed him, he doth not, like a free man, beat off the assault; but like a bought slave, doth all [it bids], serving the love of money as it were a severe mistress. If again he have beheld some comely damsel, down he croucheth at once made captive, and followeth like a raging dog, though it behoveth (6.) to do the opposite. For when thou hast beheld a beautiful woman, consider not how thou mayest enjoy thy lust, but, how be delivered from thy lust. ‘And how is this possible,’ saith one? ‘for loving is not my own doing.’ Whose then? tell me. It is from the Devil’s malice. Thou art quite convinced, that that which plotteth against thee is a devil; wrestle then, and fight with a distemper. But I cannot, he saith. Come then, let us first teach thee this, that what happeneth is from thine own listlessness, and that thou at the first gavest entrance to the Devil, and now, if thou hast a mind, with much ease mayest drive him off. They that commit adultery, is it from lust they commit it, or simply from desire of dangers? Plainly from lust. Do they then therefore obtain forgiveness? Certainly not. Why not? Because the sin is their own. ‘But,’ saith one, ‘why, pray, string syllogisms? For my conscience bears me witness that I wish to repel the passion; and cannot, but it keepeth close, presses me sore, and afflicts me grievously.’ O man, thou dost wish to repel it, but thou dost not the things repellers should do; but it is with thee, just as with a man in a fever, who drinking of cold streams to the fill, should say, ‘How many things I devise with the wish to quench this fever, and I cannot; but they stir up my flame the more.’ Let us see then whether at all thou too dost the things that inflame, yet thinkest thou art devising such as quench. ‘I do not,’ he saith. Tell me then, what hast thou ever essayed to do in order to quench the passion? and what is it, in fine, that will increase the passion? For even supposing we be not all of us obnoxious to these



particular charges; (for more may be found who are captivated by the love of money, than of beauty;) still the remedy to be proposed will be common to all, both to these and to those. For both that is an unreasonable passion, and this, yet this is keener and fiercer than that. When then we have proved victorious over the greater, it is very plain that we shall easily subdue the less also. 'And how is it,' saith one, 'that if this be keener, all persons are not made captive by the vice, but a greater number are mad after money?' Because in the first place this last desire appears to be unattended with danger: next, although that of beauty be even fiercer, yet it is more speedily extinguished; for were it to continue like that of money, it would wholly destroy its captive.

[7.] Come then, let us discourse to you on this, the love of beauty, and let us see whereby the mischief is increased; for so we shall know whether the fault be ours, or not ours. And if ours, let us do every thing to get the better of it; whereas if not ours, why do we afflict ourselves for nought? And why do we, not pardon, but find fault, with those who are made captive by it? Whence then is this love engendered? 'From comeliness of feature,' saith one, 'when she that woundeth one is beautiful and of fair countenance.' It is said idly and in vain. For if it were beauty that attracted lovers, then would the maiden, who is such, have all men for her lovers; but if she hath not all, this thing cometh not of nature, nor from beauty, but from unchaste eyes. For it was when, by eyeing too curiously<sup>1</sup>, thou didst admire and become enamoured,<sup>1</sup> that thou receivedst the shaft. 'And who,' saith one, 'when he sees a beautiful woman, can refrain from commending her he sees? If then admiring such things cometh not of deliberate choice, it follows that love depends not on ourselves.' Stop, O man! Why dost thou crowd all things together, running round and round on every side, and not choosing to see the root of the evil? For I see numbers admiring and commending, who yet are not enamoured. 'And how is it possible to admire and not be enamoured?' Clamour not, (for this I am coming to speak of,) but wait, and thou shalt hear Moses admiring the son of Jacob, and saying, *And Joseph was a*

2 Cor.  
III. 18.

<sup>1</sup> περιεργάζω.

Gen. 39,  
6. LXX.

HOMIL. *goodly person, and well favoured exceedingly.* Was he then  
 VII. enamoured who speaketh this? By no means. ‘For,’ saith  
 he, ‘he did not even see him whom he commended.’ We are  
 affected, however, somewhat similarly towards beauties also  
 which are described to us, not only which are beheld. But  
 that thou cavil not with us on this point:—David, was he not  
 comely exceedingly, and ruddy with beauty of eyes<sup>1</sup>? and  
 indeed this, the beauty of the eyes, is even especially, a com-  
 ponent of beauteousness of more despotic power than any.  
 Was then any one enamoured of him? By no means.  
 Then to be also enamoured cometh not [necessarily] with  
 admiring. For many too have had mothers blooming ex-  
 ceedingly in beauty of person. What then? Were their  
 children enamoured of them? Away with the thought! but  
 they admire what they see, yet fall not into a shameful love.  
 ‘No, for again this good provision is Nature’s.’ How Nature’s?  
 Tell me. ‘Because they are mothers,’ he saith. Then hear-  
 est thou not, that Persians, and that without any compulsion,  
 have intercourse with their own mothers, and that not one or  
 two individuals, but the whole nation? But independent of  
 these, it is hence also evident that this distemper cometh not  
 from bloom of person, nor from beauty merely, but from a  
 listless and wandering soul. Many at least it is certain,  
 oftentimes, having passed over thousands of well-favoured  
 women, have given themselves to such as were plainer.  
 Whence it is evident that love depends not on beauty: for  
 otherwise, surely, those would have caught such as fell into  
 it, before these. What then is its cause? ‘For,’ saith he, ‘if it  
 be not beauty that causeth love, whence hath it its beginning  
 and its root? From a wicked Demon?’ It hath it indeed  
 thence also, but this is not what we are inquiring about, but  
 whether we ourselves too be not the cause. For the plot is  
 not theirs only, but along with them our own too in the  
 first place. For from no other source is this wicked dis-  
 temper so engendered, as from habit, and flattering words,  
 and leisure, and idleness, and having nothing to do. For  
 great, great is the tyranny of habit, even so great as to be  
 moulded into<sup>2</sup> a necessity of nature. Now if it be habit’s to  
 gender it, it is very evident that it is also [habit’s] to extin-  
 guish it. Certain it is at least that, many have in this way ceased

<sup>1</sup> So  
 1 Sam.  
 16, 12.  
 & 17, 42.  
 LXX.

<sup>2</sup> καθίσ-  
 τασθαι.  
 Ben.  
 μεθίσ-  
 τασθαι,  
 to pass  
 into.

to be enamoured, from not seeing those they were enamoured of. Now this for a little while indeed appears to be a bitter thing, and exceedingly unpleasant; but in time it becometh pleasant, and even were they to wish it, they could not afterwards resume the passion. 2 COR.  
III. 18.

[8.] How then, when without habit one is taken captive at first sight? Here also it is indolence of body, or self-indulgence, and not attending to one's duties, nor being occupied in necessary business. For such an one, wandering about like some vagabond, is transfixed by any wickedness; and like a child let loose, any one that liketh maketh such a soul his slave. For since it is its wont to be at work, when thou stoppest its workings in what is good, seeing it cannot be unemployed, it is compelled to engender what is otherwise. For just as the earth, when it is not sown nor planted, sends up simply weed; so also the soul, when it hath nought of necessary things to do, being desirous by all means to be doing, giveth herself unto wicked deeds. And as the eye never ceaseth from seeing, and therefore will see wicked things, when good things are not set before it; so also doth the thought, when it secludes itself from necessary things, busy itself thereafter about such as are unprofitable. For that even the first assault occupation and thought are able to beat off, is evident from many things. When then thou hast looked on a beautiful woman, and wert moved towards her, look no more, and thou art delivered. 'And how shall I be able to look no more,' saith he, 'when drawn by that desire?' Give thyself to other things which may distract the soul, to books, to necessary cares, to protecting others, to assisting the injured, to prayers, to that wisdom which treats of the things to come: with such things as these bind down thy soul. By these means, not only shalt thou cure a recent wound, but shalt wear away a confirmed and inveterate one easily. For if an insult, according to the proverb, prevails with the lover to give over his love, how shall not these spiritual charms<sup>1</sup> much rather be victorious over the<sup>1</sup> *ἐπαρδαι* evil, if only we have a mind to stand aloof. But if we are always conversing and associating with those who shoot such arrows at us, and talking with them, and hearing what they say, we cherish the distemper. How then dost thou expect

HOMIL. the fire to be quenched, when day by day thou stirrest up  
 VII. the flame?

And let this that we have said about habit, be our speech unto the young; since to those who are men, and taught in heavenly wisdom, stronger than all is the fear of God, the remembrance of hell, the desire of the kingdom of heaven; for these are able to quench the fire. And along with these take that thought also, that what thou seest is nothing else than rheum, and blood, and juices of decomposed food. 'Yet a gladsome thing is the bloom of the features,' saith one. But nothing is more gladsome than the blossoms of the earth, and these too rot and wither. Do not then in this either give heed to the bloom, but pass on farther inward in thy thought, and stripping off that beauteous skin in thy thought, scan curiously what lies beneath it. For even the bodies of the dropsical shine brightly, and the surface hath nothing offensive; but still, shocked with the thought of the humour stored within those that are so, we cannot love. 'But languishing is the eye and glancing, and beautifully arched the brow, and dark the lashes, and soft the eyeball, and serene the look.' But see how even this itself again is nothing else, than nerves, and veins, and membranes, and arteries. Think too, I pray, of this beautiful eye, when diseased and old, wasting with despair, swelling with anger, how hateful to the sight it is, how quickly it perisheth, how, sooner even than pictured ones, it is effaced. From these things make thy mind pass to the true beauty. 'But,' saith he, 'I do not see beauty of soul.' But if thou wilt choose, thou shalt see it: and as the absent beautiful may be with the mind admired, though with one's eyes unseen, so it is possible to see without eyes beauty of soul. Hast thou not often sketched a beauteous form, and felt moved unto the drawing? Image also now beauty of soul, and revel in that loveliness. 'But,' saith he, 'I do not see things incorporeal.' And yet we see these, rather than the corporeal, with the mind. Therefore it is, for instance, that although we see them not, we admire angels also and archangels, though we see them not, and habits of character, and virtue of soul. And if thou hast seen a man considerate and moderate, thou wilt more admire him than that beautiful countenance. And if thou hast seen one

insulted, yet bearing it; wronged, yet giving way, admire and love too them that are such, even though they be stricken in age. For such a thing is the beauty of the soul; even in old age it hath many enamoured of it, and it never fadeth, but bloometh for ever. In order then that we also may gain this beauty, let us go in quest of those that have it, and be enamoured of them. For so shall we too be able, when we have attained this beauty, to obtain the good things eternal, whereof may all we partake, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, with the Holy Spirit, be glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

2 COR.  
III. 18.



## H O M I L Y    VIII.

2 COR. iv. 1, 2.

*Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy we faint not, but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty.*

SEEING he had uttered great things, and had set himself and all the faithful before Moses, aware of the height<sup>1</sup> and greatness of what he had said, observe how he moderates his tone again. For it was both necessary on account of the false Apostles to exalt<sup>a</sup> his hearers also, and again to calm down that swelling; yet not to do it away, since this would be a trifler's part<sup>2</sup>. Wherefore he manages this in another manner, by shewing that not of their own merits was it, but all of the loving-kindness of God. Wherefore also he says, *Therefore seeing we have this ministry.* For nothing more did we contribute, except that we became ministers, and made ourselves subservient to the things given by God. Wherefore he said not 'largess<sup>3</sup>,' nor 'supply<sup>4</sup>,' but 'ministry.' Nor was he contented with this even, but added, *as we have received mercy.* For even this itself, he saith, the ministering to these things, is of mercy and loving-kindness. Yet it is mercy's to deliver from evils, not to give so many good things besides: but the mercy of God includes this also.

*We faint not.* And this indeed is to be imputed to His loving-kindness. For the words, *as we have obtained mercy*, take to be said, with reference both to the *ministry*, and to the words, *we faint not*. And observe how earnestly he endeavours to lower his own things. 'For,' saith he, 'that one, who hath been counted worthy of such and so great things, and this from mercy only and loving-kindness, should shew forth

<sup>a</sup> ἐπαυξάν. The Benedictine Latin both on account of the false Apostles translates, "necessary to exalt [himself] and his hearers."

such labours, and undergo dangers, and endure temptations, <sup>2 COR.</sup> is no great matter. Therefore we not only do not sink down, <sup>IV.1,2.</sup> but we even rejoice, and speak boldly.' For instance, having said, *we faint not*, he added,

Ver. 2. *But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully.*

And what is, *the hidden things of dishonesty*? We do not, he saith, profess and promise great things, and in our actions shew other things, as they do; wherefore also he said, *Ye look on things after the outward ap-* <sup>2 Cor.</sup> *pearance*; but such we are as we appear, not having <sup>10, 7.</sup> any duplicity, nor saying and doing such things as we ought to hide and veil over with shame and blushes. And to interpret this, he added, *not walking in craftiness*. For what they considered to be praise, that he proves to be shameful and worthy of scorn. But what is, *in craftiness*? They had the reputation of taking nothing, but they took and kept it secret; they had the character of saints and approved Apostles, but they were full of numberless evil things. But, saith he, *we have renounced* these things: (for these are what he also calls the *hidden things of dishonesty*;) being such as we appear to be, and keeping nothing veiled over. And that not in this [our] life only, but also in the Preaching itself. For this is, *nor handling the word of God deceitfully*.

*But by manifestation of the truth.*

Not by the countenance, and the outward show, but by the very proof of our actions.

*Commending ourselves to every man's conscience.*

For not to believers only, but also to unbelievers, we are manifest; lying open unto all, that they may test our actions, as they may choose; and by this we commend ourselves, not by acting a part, and carrying about a specious mask. We say then, that we take nothing, and we call you for witnesses; we say that we are conscious of no wickedness, and of this again we derive the testimony from you, not as <sup>1</sup>sc. false <sup>Apo-</sup> they<sup>1</sup>, who, veiling over their things, deceive many. But we <sup>stles.</sup> both set forth our life before all men; and we lay bare <sup>2</sup> <sup>ἀπο-</sup> the <sup>γυμνοῦ-</sup> <sup>μεν.</sup> Preaching, so that all comprehend it.

HOMIL. [2.] Then because the unbelievers knew not its power, he  
VIII. added, this is no fault of ours, but of their own insensibility.  
Wherefore also he saith,

Ver. 3, 4. *But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the God of this world hath blinded the eyes of them that believe not.*

c. ii. 16. As he said also before, *To some a savour of death unto death,*  
(2.) *to others a savour of life unto life*, so he saith here too. But what is *the God of this world*? Those that are infected with Marcion's notions<sup>b</sup>, affirm that this is said of the Creator, the Just only, and not Good; for they say that there is a certain God, just and not good. But the Manichees<sup>c</sup> say that the devil is here intended, desiring from this passage to introduce another creator of the world besides the True One, very senselessly. For the Scripture useth often to employ the term God, not in regard of the dignity of that so designated, but of the weakness of those in subjection to it; as when it calls Mammon lord, and the belly god. But the belly is neither therefore God, or Mammon Lord, save only of those who bow down themselves to them. But we assert of this passage, that this is spoken neither of the devil nor of another creator, but of the God of the Universe, and that it is to be read thus; *God hath blinded the minds of the unbelievers of this world.* For the world to come hath no unbelievers; but the present only. But if any one should read it even otherwise, as, for instance, *the God of this world*; neither doth this afford any handle, for this doth not shew Him to be the

Ps. 136, God of this world only. For He is called *the God of*  
26. &c. *Heaven*, yet is He not the God of Heaven only; and we say, 'God of the present day;' yet we say this not as limiting His power to it alone. And moreover He is called

Exod. 3, the *God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of*  
6. &c. *Jacob*; and yet He is not the God of them alone. And one may find many other like testimonies in the Scriptures. How then *hath He blinded them*? Not by working unto this end; away with the thought! but by suffering and allowing it.

For it is usual with the Scripture so to speak, as when it saith, Rom. 1, *God gave them up to a reprobate mind.* For when they  
28.

<sup>b</sup> See Epiphanius adv. Hær. lib. i. see Library of the Fathers, St. Augustine's Confessions, Note A.  
tom. iii. 33.

<sup>c</sup> For a full account of Manichæism,

themselves first disbelieved, and rendered themselves unworthy to see the mysteries; He Himself also thereafter permitted it. But what did it behove Him to have done? To draw them by force, and reveal to those who would not see? But so they would have despised the more, and would not have seen either. Wherefore also he added,

*Lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ should shine unto them.*

Not that they might disbelieve in God, but that unbelief might not see what are the things within, as also He enjoined us, commanding us not to *cast the pearls before the swine*. For had He revealed even to those who disbelieve, their disease would have been the rather aggravated. For if one compelled a man labouring under ophthalmia to look at the sunbeams, he the rather increases his infirmity. Therefore the physicians<sup>1</sup> even shut them up in darkness, so as not to aggravate their disorder. So then here also we must consider, that these persons indeed became unbelievers of themselves, but having become so, they no longer saw the secret things of the Gospel, God thenceforth excluding its beams from them. As also he said to the disciples, *Therefore I speak unto them in proverbs*, because hearing they hear not. But that what I say may also become clearer by an example; suppose a man, a Greek, accounting our religion<sup>3</sup> to be fables. This man then, how will he be more advantaged? by going in and seeing the mysteries, or<sup>4</sup> by remaining without? Therefore he says, *Lest the light should shine unto them*, still dwelling on the history of Moses. For what happened to the Jews in his case, this happeneth to all unbelievers in the case of the Gospel. And what is that which is overshadowed, and which is not illuminated unto them? Hear him saying, *Lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ should shine unto them, Who is the Image of God*. Namely, that the Cross is the salvation of the world, and His glory; that Himself, this Crucified One, is about to come with much splendour; all the other things, those present, those to come, those seen, those not seen, the unspeakable splendour of the things looked for. Therefore also he said, *shine*, that thou mayest not look for the whole here, for that which is [here] given is

2 Cor.

IV. 4.

6.

1 Lite-

rally

“ phy-

sicians’

sons.”

2, Mat. 13,

13.

2 Rec.

Text

“ para-

bles.”

3 τὰ ἡμῶ-

ντων.

4 Or

“than.”

HOMIL. only, as it were, a little shining of the Spirit. Therefore, also  
 VIII. above as indicating this, he spoke of *savour*; and again,  
 c. 2, 16. earnest, shewing that the greater part remaineth there. But  
 c. 1, 22. nevertheless all these things have been hidden from them;  
 but have been hidden because they disbelieved first. Then  
 to shew that they are not only ignorant of the glory of Christ,  
 but of the Father's also, since they know not His, he added,  
*Who is the Image of God?* For do not halt at Christ only.  
 For as by Him thou seest the Father, so if thou art ignorant  
 of His Glory, neither wilt thou know the Father's.

[3.] Ver. 5. *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*

- (3.) And what is the nature of the connexion there? What hath  
 this in common with what has been said? He either hints  
 at them<sup>1</sup> as exalting themselves, and persuading the disciples  
 to name themselves after them: as he said in the former  
 Epistle, *I am of Paul, and I of Apollos*; or else another  
 thing of the gravest character. What then is this? Seeing  
 that they waged fierce war against them, and plotted against  
 them on every side; 'Is it,' he says, 'with us, ye fight and war?  
 [Nay but] with Him that is preached by us, *for we preach  
 not ourselves*. I am a servant, I am [but] a minister even  
 of those who receive the Gospel, transacting every thing for  
 Another, and for His glory doing whatsoever I do. So that  
 in warring against me thou throwest down what is His. For so  
 far am I from turning to my own personal advantage any  
 part of the Gospel, that I will not refuse to be even your  
 servant for Christ's sake; seeing it seemed good to Him so to  
 honour you, seeing He so loved you, and did all things for  
 you.' Wherefore also he saith, *and ourselves your servants for  
 Christ's sake*. Seest thou a soul pure from glory? 'For in  
 truth,' saith he, 'we not only do not take to ourselves<sup>2</sup> aught  
 of our Master's, but even to you we submit ourselves for His  
 sake.'

<sup>1</sup> ἡμεῖς  
 ζήμεθα.

Ver. 6. *For God, Who commanded the light to shine out  
 of darkness, hath shined in your<sup>3</sup> hearts.*

<sup>3</sup> "our"  
 Rec.  
 Text.

Seest thou how again, to those who were desirous of seeing  
 that surpassing glory, I mean that of Moses, he shews it  
 flashing with added lustre<sup>4</sup>? 'As upon the face of Moses, so  
 also hath it shined unto your hearts,' he saith. And first, he

<sup>4</sup> μετὰ  
 προσθή-  
 κης.



puts them in mind of what was made in the beginning of the <sup>2</sup> *Cor.* Creation, sensible light and darkness sensible, shewing that IV. 7. this creation is greater. And where commanded He light to shine out of darkness? In the beginning, and in prelude to the Creation; for, saith he, *Darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light.* Howbeit then indeed He said, *Let it be, and it was:* but now He said nothing, but Himself became Light for us. For he<sup>1</sup> said not, 'hath also now commanded,' but *hath* <sup>1</sup> the *Himself shined.* Therefore neither do we see 'sensible ob- <sup>Apo-</sup> <sup>stle.</sup>jects by the shining of this Light, but God Himself through Christ. Seest thou the invariableness<sup>2</sup> in the Trinity? For <sup>2</sup> ἀπαρ- of the Spirit, he says, *But we all with open face beholding* <sup>ἀλλακ-</sup> <sup>τον</sup> *as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the* <sup>c. 3, 18.</sup> *same image from glory to glory even as by the Lord the Spirit.* And of the Son; *Lest the light of the glorious* <sup>v. 4.</sup> *Gospel of Christ, Who is the Image of God, should shine unto them.* And of the Father; *Who commanded the Light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in your hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.* For as when he had said, *Of the Gospel of the glory of Christ,* he added, *Who is the Image of God,* shewing that they were deprived of His<sup>3</sup> glory also. So after saying, *the* <sup>3</sup> *God's.* *knowledge of God,* he added, *in the face of Christ,* to shew that through Him we know the Father, even as through the Spirit also we are brought unto Him.

Ver. 7. *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

For seeing he had spoken many and great things of the unspeakable glory, lest any should say, 'And how enjoying so great a glory remain we in a mortal body?' he saith, that this very thing is indeed the chiefest marvel, and a very great example of the power of God, that an earthen vessel hath been enabled to bear so great a brightness, and to keep so high a treasure. And therefore as admiring this, he said, *That the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us;* again alluding to those who gloried in themselves. For both the greatness of the things given, and the weakness of them that receive, sheweth His power; in that He not only gave great things, but also to those who are little. For he

HOMIL. used the term *earthen* in allusion to the frailty<sup>1</sup> of our mortal  
 VIII. nature, and to declare the weakness of our flesh. For it is  
 I τὸ ἐν-  
 θραυστον. nothing better constituted than earthenware; so is it soon  
 damaged, and by death, and disease, and variations of tem-  
 perature, and ten thousand other things easily dissolved.  
 And he said these things both to take down their inflation,  
 2 τῶν καὶ and to shew to all that none of the things we hold<sup>2</sup> is human.  
 ἡμῶν.  
 (4.) For then is the power of God chiefly conspicuous, when, by  
 vile, it worketh mighty things. Wherefore also in another  
 2 Cor. place He said, *For My strength is made perfect in weakness.*  
 12, 9. And indeed in the Old [Testament] whole hosts of barbarians  
 were turned to flight by gnats and flies, wherefore also He  
 Joel 2, calleth the caterpillar His mighty force<sup>3</sup>; and in the begin-  
 25. ning, by only confounding tongues, He put a stop to that  
 3 δύναμιν  
 LXX. E. great tower in Babylon. And in their wars too, at one time,  
 V. army. He routed innumerable hosts by three hundred men; at  
 Gen. 11. another He overthrew cities by trumpets; and afterwards by  
 4 ἐντελεῖς a little and poor stripling, David, He turned to flight the  
 whole array of the barbarians. So then here also, sending  
 forth twelve only, He overcame the world; twelve, and those,  
 persecuted, warred against.

[4.] Let us then be amazed at the Power of God, admire,  
 adore it. Let us ask Jews, let us ask Greeks, who persuaded  
 the whole world to desert from their fathers' usages, and to  
 go over to the ranks of another way of life? The fisher-  
 man, or the tentmaker? the publican, or the unlearned and  
 ignorant? And how can these things stand with reason,  
 except it were Divine Power which achieveth all by their  
 means? And what too did they say to persuade them? 'Be  
 baptized in the Name of The Crucified.' Of what kind of  
 5 ποίου; man<sup>5</sup>? One they had not seen, nor looked upon. But, never-  
 theless, saying and preaching these things, they persuaded  
 them, that they who gave them oracles, and whom they  
 had received by tradition from their forefathers, were no  
 Gods: whilst this Christ, He Who was nailed [to the wood],  
 drew them all unto Himself. And yet, that He was indeed  
 crucified and buried, was manifest in a manner to all; but  
 that He was risen again, none, save a few, saw. But still of  
 this too they persuaded those who had not beheld; and  
 not that He rose again only, but that He ascended also into

Heaven, and cometh to judge quick and dead. Whence <sup>2 Cor.</sup> then the persuasiveness of these sayings, tell me? From <sup>1V. 7.</sup> none other thing, but from the Power of God. For, in the first place, innovation itself<sup>a</sup> was offensive to all; but when too one innovates in such things, the matter becomes more grievous: when one tears up the foundations of ancient custom, when one plucks laws from their seat. And besides <sup>ἁναμο-  
χλεύη.</sup> all this, neither did the heralds seem worthy of credit, but they were both of a nation hated amongst all men, and were timorous and ignorant. Whence then overcame they the world? Whence cast they out you, and those your forefathers who were reputed to be philosophers, along with their very gods? Is it not quite evident, that it was from having God with them? For neither are these successes of human, but of some divine and unspeakable, power. ‘No,’ saith one, ‘but of witchcraft.’ Then certainly ought the power of the demons to have increased, and the worship of idols to have extended. How then have they been overthrown, and have vanished, and our things the reverse of these? So that from this even it is manifest, that what was done was the decree of God; and not from the Preaching only, but also from the rule of life itself. For when was virginity so largely planted every where in the world? when contempt of wealth, and of life, and of all things besides? For such as were wicked, and wizards, would have effected nothing like this, but the contrary in all respects: whilst these introduced amongst us the life of angels; and not introduced merely, but succeeded also in it in our own land, in that of the barbarians, in the very extremities of the earth. Whence it is manifest that it was the power of Christ every where that effected all, which every where shineth, and swifter than any lightning illumeth the hearts of men. All these things, then, considering and accepting what hath been done, as a clear proof of the promise of the things to come, worship with us the invincible might of The Crucified, that ye may both escape those intolerable punishments, and obtain that everlasting kingdom; of which may all we partake through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory world without end. Amen.

<sup>a</sup> So one MS. at any rate; Ben. “this innovation.”

## HOMILY IX.

2 COR. iv. 8, 9.

*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken.*

HE still dwells upon proving, that the whole work is to be ascribed to the power of God, repressing the highmindedness of those that glory in themselves. ‘For not this only,’ saith he, ‘is marvellous, that we keep this treasure in earthen vessels, but that even when enduring ten thousand hardships, and battered <sup>a</sup> on every side, we [still] preserve and lose it not. Yet though there were a vessel of adamant, it would neither have been strong enough to carry so vast a treasure, nor have sufficed against so many machinations; yet, as it is, it both bears it, and suffers no harm, through God’s grace.’ For, *we are troubled on every side*, saith he, *but not distressed*. What is, *on every side*? ‘In respect of our foes, in respect of our friends, in respect of necessities, in respect of other needs, by them which be hostile, by them of our own household.’ *But we are not distressed*. And see how he speaks contrarieties, that thence also he may shew the strength of God. For, *we are troubled on every side, yet not distressed*, saith he; *we are perplexed, but not in despair*; that is, ‘we do not quite fall off. For we are often, indeed, wrong in our calculations<sup>b</sup>, and miss our aim, yet not so as to fall away from what is set before us: for these things are permitted by God for our discipline, not for our defeat.’

<sup>a</sup> περικερούμενοι, a term especially used of striking upon vessels, to sound them. <sup>b</sup> ἀλογούμεθα. The Ben. Ed. has ἀλλοούμεν in defiance of Mss.

Ver. 9. *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.* 2 Cor. IV. 9—11.

For these temptations do indeed befall, but not the consequences of the temptations. And this indeed through the Power and Grace of God. In other places indeed he says that these things were permitted, in order both to their own <sup>1</sup> i.e. the humble-mindedness, and to the safety of others: for *lest I should be exalted above measure, there was given to me a thorn*, <sup>2</sup> Apoc. 12, 7. 2 Cor. 12, 7. he says: and again, *Lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me*; and in another place again, *that we should not trust in ourselves*: <sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. here, however, that the power of God might be manifested. <sup>1, 9.</sup> Seest thou how great the gain of his temptations? For it both shewed the power of God, and more disclosed His grace. For, saith He, *My grace is sufficient for thee*. It also anointed <sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. them unto lowliness of mind, and prepared them for keeping <sup>12, 9.</sup> down the rest, and made them to be more hardy. *For patience*, saith he, *worketh experience, and experience hope*. <sup>4.</sup> For they who had fallen into ten thousand dangers, and through the hope they had in God, had been raised <sup>2</sup>, were <sup>2</sup> ἀνεν γένεσις. taught to hold by it more and more in all things.

Ver. 10. *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be manifest in our body.*

And what is the *dying of the Lord Jesus*, which they bare about? Their daily deaths, by which also the resurrection was shewed. ‘For if any believe not,’ he says, ‘that Jesus died and rose again, beholding us every day die and rise again, let him believe henceforward in the resurrection.’ Seest thou how he has discovered yet another reason for the temptations? What then is this reason? *That His life also might be made manifest in our body*. He says, ‘by snatching us out of the perils. So that this, which seems a mark of weakness and destitution, this, [I say,] proclaims His resurrection. For His power had not so appeared in our suffering no unpleasantness, as it is now shewn, in our suffering indeed, but without being overcome.’

Ver. 11. *For we which live are also delivered unto death*

<sup>c</sup> So Chrysostom: Rec. text “always.” Just below he inserts, as will be seen, “in us.”



HOMIL. for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made  
IX. manifest in us in our mortal flesh.

For every where, whenever he has said any thing obscure, he interprets himself again. So then he has done here also, giving a clear interpretation of this, which I have cited. 'For therefore' *we are delivered*, he says, 'in other words, we bear about His dying, that the power of His life may be made manifest, Who permitteth not mortal flesh, though undergoing so great sufferings, to be overcome by the snow-storm of these calamities.' And it may be taken too in another way.  
2 Tim. 2, 11. How? As he says in another place, *If we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him*. 'For as we endure His dying now, and choose, whilst living, to die for His sake: so also will He choose, when dead, to beget us then unto life. For if we from life come into death, He also will from death lead us by the hand into life.'

Ver. 12. *So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*

<sup>1</sup> Literally, *the death*. Speaking no more of death in the strict sense<sup>1</sup>, but of temptations and of rest. 'For we indeed,' he says, 'are in perils and temptations, but ye in rest; reaping the life which is the fruit of these perils. And we indeed endure the dangerous, but ye enjoy the good things; for ye undergo not so great trials.'

[2.] Ver. 13. *We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; that*<sup>2</sup> *He which raised up the Lord Jesus, shall raise up us also by Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup> knowing that &c. Rec.

Text.

Ps. 116,

10. <sup>3</sup> φιλῶσα-  
φίαν.

<sup>4</sup> ἐλπίσιν.

He has reminded us of a Psalm which abounds in heavenly wisdom<sup>3</sup>, and especially fitted to encourage<sup>4</sup> in dangers.

For this saying that just man uttered, when he was in great dangers, and from which there was no other possibility of

(2.) recovery, except by the aid of God. Since then kindred circumstances are most effective in comforting, therefore he says, *having the same Spirit*; that is, 'by the same succour by which he was saved, we also are saved; by the Spirit through which he spake, we also speak.' Whence he shews, that between the New and Old Covenants great harmony exists, and that the same Spirit wrought in either; and that not we alone are in dangers, but all those of old were so too; and that we must find a remedy<sup>5</sup> through faith and hope, and

<sup>5</sup> ὁ δὲ θεὸς ὁ  
σθαι.

not seek at once to be released from what is laid upon us. <sup>2</sup> COR. IV. 14—18. For having shewed by arguments the resurrection and the life, and that the danger was not a mark of helplessness or destitution; he thenceforward brings in faith also, and to it commits the whole. But still of this also he furnishes a proof, the resurrection, namely, of Christ, saying, *we also believe, and therefore speak.* What do we believe? tell me.

Ver. 14, 15. *That He which raised up Jesus, shall raise up us also, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.*

Again, he fills them with lofty thoughts<sup>1</sup>, that they may <sup>1</sup> φρονή-  
not hold themselves indebted to men, I mean to the false <sup>μεσση-  
Apostles.</sup> For the whole is of God, Who willeth to bestow upon many, so that the grace may appear the greater. For your sakes, therefore, was the resurrection and all the other things. For He did not these things for the sake of one only, but of all.

Ver. 16. *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*

How perishes? - Being scourged, being persecuted, suffering ten thousand extremities. *Yet the inward man is renewed day by day.* How is renewed? By faith, by hope, by a forward will, finally, by braving those extremities. For in proportion as the body suffers ten thousand things, in the like proportion hath the soul goodlier hopes, and becometh brighter, like gold refined in the fire more and more. And see how he brings to nothing the sorrows of this present life.

Ver. 17, 18. *For the<sup>2</sup> light affliction, he saith, which is<sup>2</sup> our, but for a moment, worketh<sup>3</sup> in excess and unto excess<sup>3</sup> an eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen.* <sup>R. T. work-  
eth for  
us, R. T.</sup>

Having closed the question in the issue of hope, (and, as he said in his Epistle to the Romans, *We are saved by hope, but hope that is seen is not hope*; establishing the same point here also,) he sets side by side the things present with the things to come, the momentary with the eternal, the light with the weighty, the affliction with the glory. And neither is he

HOMIL. content with this, but he addeth another expression, doubling  
 IX. it, and saying, *in excess and unto excess*<sup>1</sup>. Next he also shews  
 ἡ καὶ ὁ περιβό- the mode how so great afflictions are light. How then light?  
 λήν εἰς ὁ περιβό- *While we look not at the things that are seen, but at the*  
 λην. *things that are not seen.* So will both this present be light,

v. 18. the things that are seen. *For the things that are seen are temporal.* Therefore the afflictions are so too. *But the things that are not seen are eternal.* Therefore the crowns are so also. And he said not the afflictions are so, but, *the things that are seen*; all of them, whether punishment or rest, so that we should neither be puffed up by the one, nor  
 2 βιά- overborne<sup>2</sup> by the other. And therefore, when speaking of  
 ζισθαί the things to come, he said not the kingdom is eternal; but, *the things which are not seen are eternal*, whether they be a kingdom, or again punishment; so as both to alarm by the one, and to encourage by the other.

MORAL. [3.] Since then *the things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal*, let us look to them. For what excuse even can we have, if we choose the temporal instead of the eternal? For even if the present be pleasurable, yet it is not abiding; whilst the woe it entails is abiding, and irremissible. For what excuse will they have who have been counted worthy of the Spirit, and have enjoyed so great a gift, if they become of grovelling mind and fall down to earth. For I hear many saying these words worthy of all scorn, 'Give me to-day and take to-morrow.' 'For,' saith one, 'if indeed there be such things there, as ye affirm, then it is one for one; but if there be no such thing at all, then it is two for nothing.' What can be more lawless  
 3 ληρω- than these words? or what more idle prating<sup>3</sup>? We are dis-  
 δισπτερον coursing about Heaven, and those unspeakable good things;

4 ἡ παροδρε- and thou bringest forth unto us the terms of the racecourse<sup>4</sup>,  
 μίωv. yet art not ashamed, nor hidest thy face, whilst uttering such  
 Vid. things as befit maniacs? Blushest thou not that art so  
 Field rivetted to the present things? Wilt thou not cease from  
 Ann. being distraught, and beside thyself, and in youth a dotard? Were Greeks indeed to talk in this way, it were no marvel: but that believers should vent such dotage, of what forgiveness doth it admit? For dost thou hold those immortal

hopes in utter suspicion? Dost thou think these things to be utterly doubtful? And in what are these things deserving of pardon? ‘And who hath come,’ saith one, ‘and brought back word what is there?’ Of men indeed not any one, but God, more trustworthy, than all hath declared these things. But thou beholdest not what is there. Neither dost thou see God. Wilt thou then deny that there is a God, because thou seest Him not? ‘Yes,’ he replies, ‘I firmly believe there is a God.’ If then an infidel should ask thee, ‘And who came from Heaven and brought back word of this?’ what wilt thou answer? Whence dost thou know that there is a God? ‘From the things that are seen,’ he answers, ‘from the fair order existing through the whole creation, from its being manifest to all.’ Therefore receive also in the same way the doctrine of the judgment. ‘How?’ he asks. I will question thee, and do thou answer me. Is this God just, and will He render to each according to his deserving? or, on the contrary, doth He will the wicked should live happily and in luxury, and the good in the contrary things? ‘By no means,’ he answers, ‘for man even would not feel thus.’ Where then shall they, who have done virtuously here, enjoy the things that be good? and where the wicked the opposites, except there is to be a life and retribution hereafter? Seest thou that at present it is one for one, and not two for one. But I will shew thee, as I proceed, that it is not even one against one, but it shall be for the righteous two for nothing; and for the sinners, and those that live here riotously, quite the contrary. For they that have lived riotously here, have received not even one for one; but those who pass their life in virtue two for nothing<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup> “for one,” Bened. <sup>2</sup> against most Mss. For who are in rest, they that have abused this present life, or they that followed heavenly wisdom? Perhaps thou wilt say the former, but I prove it of the latter, summoning for my witnesses<sup>2</sup> those very men, that have enjoyed these present things; and they will not be so shameless as to deny, what I am going to say. For oftentimes have they imprecated curses upon matchmakers<sup>2</sup>, and upon the day that their bridal chamber<sup>3</sup> was wreathed, and have proclaimed them happy who have not married. Many too of the young, even when they might have married, have refused for no

2 COR.  
IV. 18.

(3.)

<sup>1</sup> “for one,” Bened. <sup>2</sup> against most Mss.

<sup>2</sup> προμνη-  
στειαις  
<sup>3</sup> αι πα-  
στειδεις

HOMIL. other reason than the troublesomeness of the thing. And  
 IX. this I say, not as accusing marriage; for it is *honourable*;  
 Heb. 13, but those who have used it amiss. Now if they, who have  
 4. lived a married life, have often considered their life not worth  
 the living; what shall we say of those who have been swept  
 down into whores' deep pits, and are more slavishly and  
 wretchedly affected than any captive? what of those who  
 have grown rotten in luxury, and have enveloped their  
 bodies with a thousand diseases? 'But it is a pleasure to be  
 had in honour.' Yea, rather, nothing is bitterer than this  
 slavery. For he that seeketh vain honour is more servile  
 than any slave, and desirous of pleasing any body; but he  
 that treads it under foot is superior to all, who careth not  
 for the glory that cometh from others. 'But the possession  
 of wealth is desirable.' Yet we have often shewn, that they  
 who are loose from it and have nothing, enjoy greater riches  
 and repose. 'But to be drunken is pleasant.' But who will  
 say this? Surely then if to be without riches is pleasanter than  
 to have them, and not to marry than to marry, and not to  
 seek vain-glory than to seek it, and not to live luxuriously  
 than to do so; even in this world they who are not rivetted  
 to these present things have the advantage. And as yet  
 I say not, how that the former, even though he be racked  
 with ten thousand tortures, hath that good hope to carry  
 him through: whilst the latter, even though he is in the  
 enjoyment of a thousand delights, hath the fear of the  
 future disquieting and confounding his pleasure. For  
 this, too, is no light sort of punishment; nor therefore the  
 contrary, of enjoyment and repose. And besides these there  
 is a third sort. And what is this? In that the things of  
 worldly delight do not, even whilst they are present, appear  
 such, being refuted<sup>1</sup> both by nature and time; but the others  
 not only are, but also abide immovable. Seest thou that we  
 shall be able to put not two for nothing only, but three even,  
 and five, and ten, and twenty, and ten thousand for nothing?  
 But, that thou mayest learn this same truth by an example  
 Luke 16, also,—the rich man and Lazarus,—the one enjoyed the things  
 19. &c. present, the other, those to come. Seems it then to thee to  
 be one and one, to be punished throughout all time, and to  
 be an hungered for a little season? to be diseased in a

<sup>1</sup> ἐλεγχόμενα.



corruptible body, and to scorch<sup>1</sup> miserably in an undying <sup>2</sup> Cor. <sup>1</sup> V. 18. one? to be crowned and live in undying delights after that <sup>1</sup> ἀπο- little sickness, and to be endlessly tormented after that <sup>1</sup> τηγανί- short enjoyment of his goods. And who will say this? <sup>1</sup> ζῆσθαι. For what wilt thou we should compare? the quantity? the quality? the rank? the decision of God<sup>d</sup> concerning each? How long will ye utter the words of beetles, that are for ever wallowing in dung? For these are not the words of reasoning men, to throw away a soul which is so precious for nothing, when there needeth little labour to receive heaven. Wilt thou that I teach thee also in another way, that there is an awful tribunal there? Open the doors of thy conscience, and behold the judge that sitteth in thine heart. Now if thou condemnest thyself, although a lover of thyself, and canst not refrain from passing a righteous verdict, will not God much rather make great provision for that which is just, and pass that impartial judgment upon all; or will He permit every thing to go on loosely and at random? And who will say this? No one; but both Greeks and barbarians, both poets and philosophers, yea the whole race of men in this agree with us, though differing in particulars<sup>2</sup>, <sup>2</sup> εἰ <sup>1</sup> καὶ μὴ <sup>1</sup> ἐμοίως. and affirm that there are tribunals of some sort in hell<sup>3</sup>; so <sup>3</sup> Hades manifest and uncontroverted is the thing.

[4.] ‘And wherefore,’ saith one, ‘doth He not punish here?’ That He may display that longsuffering of His, and may offer to us the salvation that cometh by repentance, and not make our race to be swept away, nor pluck away those, who by an excellent change are able to be saved, before that salvation. For if he instantly punished upon the sins, and destroyed, how should Paul have been saved, how should Peter, those chief teachers of the world? How should David have reaped the salvation, that came by his repentance? How the Galatians? How many others? For this reason then He neither exacts the penalty from all here, (but only from some out of all,) nor yet there from all, but from one here, and from another there; that He may both rouse those who are exceedingly insensible by means of those whom He punishes, and may cause them to expect the future things by those whom He punishes not. Or seest thou not many punished here, as

<sup>d</sup> ὁ θεός. The Ben. translate “ordinem Dei aut sententiam.”

HOMIL. those, for instance, who were buried under the ruins of that  
 IX. tower; as those whose blood Pilate mingled with their sacri-  
 Luke 13, fices; as those who perished by an untimely death amongst  
 4. 7. the Corinthians, because they partook unworthily of the  
 1 Cor. mysteries; as Pharaoh; as those of the Jews who were slain  
 11, 30. by the barbarians; as many others, both then, and now, and  
 continually? And yet others too, having sinned in many  
 things, departed without suffering the penalty here; as the  
 Luke 16, rich man in the story of Lazarus; as many others. Now  
 (4). these things He does, both to arouse those who quite dis-  
 believe<sup>1</sup> in the things to come, and to make those who do  
 believe and are careless more diligent. *For God is a*  
*righteous Judge, and strong, and longsuffering, and visits*  
*not with wrath every day.* But if we abuse His longsuffering,  
 there will come a time, when He will no more suffer long,  
 even for a little, but will straightway visit with the penalty.

<sup>1</sup> διαπισ-  
 τοῦντας.  
 Ps. 7, 11.  
 LXX.

Let us not then, that for a single moment (for such is this present life) we may live luxuriously, draw on ourselves punishment through endless ages: but let us toil for a moment, that we may be crowned for ever. See ye not, that even in worldly things most men act in this manner; and choose a brief toil in order to a long rest, even though the opposite falls out unto them? For, in this life indeed, there is an equal portion of toils and reward; yea, often, on the contrary, the toil is endless, whilst the fruit is little, or not even a little, oftentimes: but in the case of the kingdom conversely, the labour is little, whilst the pleasure is great and boundless. For consider: the husbandman wearieth himself the whole year through, and at the very end of his hope oftentimes misses of the fruit<sup>e</sup> of those many toils. The shipmaster again, and the soldier, until extreme old age, are occupied with wars and labours; and oftentimes hath each of them departed, the one with the loss of his wealthy cargoes, the other, along with victory, of life itself. What excuse then shall we have, tell me, if in worldly matters indeed we prefer what is laborious, in order that we may rest for a little, or not a little even; (for the hope of this is uncertain;) but in spiritual things do the converse of this, and draw upon ourselves unutterable punishment for a little sloth? Where-

<sup>e</sup> Or, "at the very end oftentimes misses of his hope, the fruit, &c."

fore I beseech you all, though late, yet still at length to recover from this frenzy. For none shall deliver us in that day; neither brother, nor father, nor child, nor friend, nor neighbour, nor any other: but if our works play us false, all will be over, and we must needs<sup>1</sup> perish. How many lamentations did that rich man make, and besought the Patriarch, and begged that Lazarus might be sent! But hear what Abraham said unto him: *There is a gulf<sup>†</sup> betwixt us and you, so that they who wish to go forth cannot pass thither.* How many petitions did those virgins make to their fellows, for a little oil! But hear what they also say; *Lest there be not enough for you and for us;* and none was able to bring them in to the bridal chamber.

Thinking then on these things, let us also be careful of that which is our life. For mention what toils soever, and bring forward besides what punishments soever; all these combined will be nothing in comparison of the good things to come. Instance therefore, if thou wilt, fire, and steel, and wild beasts, and if there be aught sorer than these; but yet these are not even a shadow, unto those torments. For these things, when applied in excess, become then especially light, making the release speedy<sup>‡</sup>; since the body sufficeth not unto intensity at once, and long continuance of suffering; but there it is not so, but both meet together, both prolongation and excess, both in the good and the grievous. Whilst we have time then, *let us prevent His presence with confession*, that in that day we may behold Him gentle and serene, that we may escape altogether those threat-bearing Powers. Seest thou not, how this world's soldiers, who perform the bidding of those in authority, drag men about; how they chain, how they scourge them, how pierce their sides, how apply torches to their torments, how dismember them? Yet all these things are but plays and joke unto those punishments. For these punishments are temporal; but there neither the worm dieth, nor is the fire quenched: for that body of all is incorruptible, which is then to be raised up. But God grant that we may never learn these things by experience; but that

2 COR.  
IV. 13.

1 Or, 'utterly.'

Luke  
16, 26.

Mat. 25,  
9.

Ps. 95, 2.  
LXX.

<sup>†</sup> χάος, Chrys. who varies from the text in other respects.

<sup>‡</sup> Si gravis, brevis; si longa, levis: Cic. Tusc. Disp.

HOMIL. these fearful things may never be nearer unto us than  
 IX. in the mention of them<sup>1</sup>; and that we be not delivered  
 ἰ μεχρὶ ῥήματος στήναι. over to those tormentors, but may be hence made wise.  
 How many things shall we then say, in accusation of our-  
 selves! How many lamentations shall we utter! How  
 many groans! But it will thenceforth be of no avail. For  
 neither can sailors, when the ship hath gone to pieces, and  
 hath sunk, thereafter be of any service; nor physicians, when  
 the patient is departed; but they will often say indeed, that so  
 and so ought to have been done; but all is fruitless and in  
 vain. For as long indeed as hopes remain from amendment,  
 one ought both to say and do every thing: but when we  
 have no longer any thing in our power, all being quite  
 ruined, it is to no purpose that all is said and done. For  
 Mat. 23, 39. the Jews even will then say, *Blessed is He that cometh in the  
 Name of the Lord*: but will be able to reap none advantage  
 of this cry, towards escaping their punishment; for when  
 they ought to have said it, they said it not. That then this  
 be not the case with us, in respect to our life, let us now  
 and from this time reform, that we may stand at the tribunal  
 of Christ with all boldness; whereunto may all of us attain  
 through the grace and love toward men of our Lord Jesus  
 Christ, with Whom to the Father, with the Holy Spirit, be  
 glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>h</sup> ἐντεῦθεν σωφρονισθῆναι. Ben. ἐνταῦθα against the MSS.

## HOMILY X.

2 COR. v. 1.

*For we know, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

AGAIN he arouses their zeal because many trials drew on<sup>1</sup>. <sup>ἡ παρά- γισθαι.</sup> For it was likely that they, in consequence of his absence, were weaker in respect to this [need]. What then saith he? One ought not to wonder that we suffer affliction; nor to be confounded, for we even reap many gains thereby. And some of these he mentioned before; for instance, that we bear about the dying of Jesus, and present the greatest proof of His power: for he says, *that the excellency of the power may be of God*: and we exhibit a clear proof of the Resurrection, for, says he, *that the life of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh*. But since along with these things he said, that our inward man is thus made better also; for *though our outward man perish*, saith he, *yet the inward man is renewed day by day*; shewing again, that this being scourged and persecuted is proportionably useful, he adds, that when this is done thoroughly, then the countless good things will spring up for those who have endured these things. For lest, when thou hearest that thy outward man perishes, thou shouldest grieve; he says, that when this is completely effected, then most of all shalt thou rejoice, and shalt come unto a better inheritance<sup>2</sup>. So that not only<sup>2</sup> <sup>λατῶν.</sup> ought not one to grieve at its perishing now in part, but even earnestly to seek for the completion of that destruction, for this most conducts thee to immortality. Wherefore also he added, *For we know, that if our earthly house of this taber-*



HOMIL. X. *nacle were dissolved: we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* For since he is urging<sup>1</sup> again the doctrine of the Resurrection, in respect to which they were particularly unsound; he calls in to aid the judgment of his hearers also, and so establishes it; not however in the same way as before, but, as it were, arriving at it out of another subject: (for they had had [their error] already corrected:) and says, *We know, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* Some indeed say, that the 'earthly house' is this world; but I should maintain that he alludes rather to the body. But observe, I pray, how by the terms [he uses,] he shews the superiority of the future things to the present. For having said *earthly*, he hath opposed to it *the heavenly*; having said, *house of tabernacle*, thereby declaring both that it is easily taken to pieces and is temporary, he hath opposed to it the *eternal*, for the name *tabernacle* oftentimes denotes temporariness. Wherefore He saith, *In My Father's house are many abiding places.* But if He any where also calls the resting places of the saints tabernacles; He calls them not tabernacles simply, but adds an epithet; for he said not, that *they may receive you* into their tabernacles, but *into the everlasting tabernacles.* Moreover also in that he said, *not made with hands*, he alluded to that which was made with hands. What then? Is the body made with hands? By no means; but he either alludes to the houses here that are made with hands, or if not this, then he called the body, which is not made with hands, 'a house of tabernacle.' For he has not used the term in antithesis and contradistinction<sup>2</sup> to this, but to heighten those enlogies, and swell those commendations.

<sup>2</sup> πρὸς  
ἀντιδια-  
στολήν  
ἀντίθε-  
σιν.

[2.] Ver. 2. *For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven.*

What house? tell me. The incorruptible body. And why do we groan now? Because that is far better. And *from heaven* he calls it because of its incorruptibleness. For it is not surely that a body will come down to us from above: but by this expression he signifies the grace which is sent from thence. So far then ought we to be from

grieving at these trials which are in part, that we ought to seek even for their fulness<sup>1</sup>, as if he had said: Groanest thou that thou art persecuted, that this thy man perisheth? Groan that this is not done unto excess, and that it perishes not entirely. Seest thou how he hath turned round what was said unto the contrary; having proved, that they ought to groan that those things were not done fully; for which, because they were done partially, they groaned. Therefore he henceforth calls it not a tabernacle, but a house, and with great reason. For tabernacles indeed are easily taken to pieces; but a house abideth continually.

Ver. 3. *If indeed, even when unclothed<sup>a</sup> we shall not be found naked.*

That is, even if we have put off the body, we shall not be presented there without a body, but even with the same one made incorruptible. But some read, and it deserves very much to be adopted, *If indeed we shall also, being clothed, not be found naked.* For lest all should be confident because of the Resurrection, he says, *If so be that we shall also, being clothed*, that is, having obtained incorruption and an incorruptible body, *not be found naked*, of glory and safety. As he also said in the former Epistle; *We shall all be raised; but every man in his own order.* And, *There are heavenly bodies, and bodies terrestrial.* For the Resurrection indeed is common to all, but the glory is not common; but some shall rise in honour, and others in dishonour, and some to a kingdom, but others to punishment. This surely he signified here also, when he said; *If so be, that, being clothed, we shall not be found naked.*

[3.] Ver. 4. *For we that are in this tabernacle do groan<sup>b</sup>, not because we would be unclothed, but clothed upon.*

Here again he hath utterly and manifestly stopped the mouths of the heretics, shewing that he is not speaking absolutely of a body differing in identity<sup>2</sup>, but of corruption<sup>2</sup> and incorruption. ‘For we do not therefore groan,’ saith he,

<sup>a</sup> ἐκδυσάμενοι. This doubtless was what St. Chrysostom wrote, as appears from what follows; but the MSS. all agree in reading ἐνδυσάμενοι,

as the Rec. text of the N. T. reads in the Epistle.

<sup>b</sup> “Being burdened,” Rec. text, which St. Chrysostom omits.

2 COR.  
V. 3, 4.  
τὸ καὶ  
ολιγὸν

1 Cor.  
15, 22.  
23.  
ib. 40.

ἐλλοῦ  
καὶ  
ἐλλοῦ.

HOMIL. 'that we may be delivered from the body: for of this we do  
 X. not wish to be unclothed; but we hasten to be delivered from the corruption that is in it. Wherefore he saith, 'we wish not to be unclothed of the body, but that it should be clothed upon with incorruption.' Then he also interprets it [thus,] *That mortality might be swallowed up of life.* For since putting off the body would appear to many a grievous thing; and he was contradicting the judgments of all, when he said, *we groan*, not wishing to be set free from it; ('for if,' says one, 'the soul in being separated from it so suffers and laments, how sayest thou that we groan because we are not separated from it?') lest then this should be urged against him, he says, 'Neither do I assert that we therefore groan, that we may put it off; (for no one putteth it off without pain, seeing that Christ says even of Peter, 'They shall *carry thee*, and lead thee *whither thou wouldest not*;) but that we may have it clothed upon with incorruption.' For it is in this respect that we are burthened by the body; not because it is a body, but because a corruptible body and obnoxious to suffering<sup>1</sup>, that we are encompassed with: for it is this that also causes us pain. But the life, when it arriveth, destroyeth and useth up the corruption; the corruption, I say, not the body. 'And how cometh this to pass?' saith one. Inquire not; God doeth it; be not too curious. Wherefore also he added,

John  
21, 18.

Ver. 5. *Now he that hath wrought us for the self-same thing is God.*

Hereby he shews that these things were prefigured from the first. For not now hath this been decreed; but when at the first He fashioned us from earth, and created Adam, for not for this created He him, that he should die, but that He might make him even immortal. Then as shewing the credibility of this, and furnishing the proof of it, he added,

*Who also hath given the earnest of the Spirit.*

For even then He fashioned us for this; and now He hath wrought unto this by baptism, and hath furnished us with no light security thereof, the Holy Spirit. And he continually calls It an earnest, wishing to prove God to be a debtor in the <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> ὁ φειλί-  
την τοῦ  
παντός

whole, and thereby also to make what he says more credible unto the grosser sort. 2 COR.  
V.6—8.

[4.] Ver. 6. *Therefore we are always confident, knowing.*

The word *confident* is used with reference to the persecutions, to the plottings, and continual deaths: as if he had said, ‘Doth any vex, and persecute, and slay thee? Be not cast down, for thy sake all is done. Be not afraid: but confident. For that which thou groanest and grieveest for, that thou art in bondage to corruption, he removes from henceforward out of thy way, and frees thee the sooner from this bondage.’ Wherefore also he saith, *Therefore we are always confident*, not in the seasons of rest only, but also in those of tribulation; *knowing*,

Ver. 7, 8. *That whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

That which is greater than all he has put last, for to be with Christ is better, than receiving an incorruptible [body]. But what he says is this: ‘He quencheth not our life that warreth against, and killeth us; be not afraid: be confident, even when hewn in pieces. For not only doth he set thee free from corruption and a burden, but he also sendeth thee quickly to the Lord.’ Wherefore neither did he say, “whilst we are in the body:” as of those who are in a foreign and strange land. *Knowing therefore that whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: we are confident, I say, and willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.* Seest thou how keeping back what was painful, the names of death, and the end, he has employed instead of them such as excite great longing<sup>1</sup>, <sup>τὰ σφόδρα σπουδαίοντα</sup> calling them presence with God; and passing over those things which are accounted to be sweet, the things of life, he hath expressed them by painful names, calling the life here, an absence from the Lord? Now this he did, both that no one might fondly linger amongst present things, but rather be weary of them; and that none when about to die, might be disquieted<sup>2</sup>, but might rejoice even, as departing<sup>2</sup> ἀλύγ. unto greater goods. Then, that none might say, on hearing that we are absent from the Lord, ‘Why speakest thou thus?’

HOMIL. Are we then estranged from Him whilst we are here?' he in  
 anticipation corrected<sup>1</sup> such a thought, saying, *For we walk  
 by faith, not by sight.* Even here indeed we know Him, but  
 not so clearly. As he says also elsewhere, *in a glass, and  
 darkly.*

*We are confident, I say, and willing.* Wonderful! to what hath he brought round the discourse? To an extreme desire of death, having shewn the grievous to be pleasurable, and the pleasurable grievous. For by the term, *we are willing*, he means, 'we are desirous.' Of what are we desirous? Of being *absent from the body, and present with the Lord.* And thus he does perpetually, (as I shewed also before,) turning round the objection of his opponents unto the very contrary.

Ver. 9. *Wherefore also we labour, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.*

'For what we seek for is this,' saith he, 'whether we be there or here, to live according to His will; for this is the principal thing. So that by this thou hast the kingdom already in possession without a probation.' For lest when they had arrived at so great a desire of being there, they should again be disquieted at its being so long first, in this he gives them already the chief<sup>2</sup> of those good things. And what is this? The being *accepted*. For as to depart, is not absolutely good, but to do so in [God's] favour; which is what makes departing also become a good; so to remain here, is not absolutely grievous, but to remain offending Him. Deem not then that departure from the body is enough; for virtue is always necessary. For as when he spoke of a Resurrection, he allowed [them] not by it to be only confident, saying, *If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked*; so also, having shewed a departure, lest thou shouldst think that this is enough to save thee, he added this, of its being needful that we be accepted.

[5.] Seeing then he has persuaded them by many good things, henceforth he alarms them also by those of gloomier aspect<sup>3</sup>. For our interest consists both in the attainment of the good things, and the avoidance of the evil things, in other words, hell and the kingdom. But since this, the avoiding of punishment, is the more forcible motive; for

X.  
<sup>1</sup> περι-  
 ὥρῳσε.  
 1 Cor.  
 13, 12.

<sup>2</sup> τὸ κει-  
 φάλαιον

<sup>3</sup> σκυ-  
 θρωποῦτε-  
 ρων.



where penalty reaches only to the not receiving good things, <sup>2 Cor. V. 10.</sup> the most will bear this contentedly; but if it also extend to the suffering of evil, do so no longer: (for they ought, indeed, to consider the former intolerable, but, from the weakness and grovelling nature of the many, the latter appears to them more hard to bear:) since then (I say) the giving of the good things doth not so arouse the general hearer, as the threat of the punishments, he is obliged to conclude with this, saying,

Ver. 10. *For we must all appear before the judgment-seat.*

Then having alarmed and quelled<sup>1</sup> the hearer by the<sup>1</sup> *κατα-σεύεις.* mention of that judgment-seat, he hath not even here set down the woful without the good things, but hath mingled something of pleasure, saying,

*That every one may receive the things done in his body, as many as<sup>4</sup> he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

By saying these words, he both reviveth<sup>2</sup> those who<sup>2</sup> *ἀνιστῶ.* have done virtuously and are persecuted with those hopes, and maketh those who have fallen back more earnest by that fear. And he thus confirmed his words touching the resurrection of the body. ‘For surely,’ saith he, ‘that which hath ministered to the one and to the other, shall not stand excluded from the recompenses: but along with the soul, shall in the one case be punished, in the other crowned.’ But some of the heretics say, that it is another body that is raised. How so? tell me. Hath one sinned, and is another punished? Hath one done virtuously, and is another crowned? And what will ye answer to Paul, saying, *We would not be unclothed, but clothed upon?* And how is the corruptible *swallowed up of life?* For he said not, that the mortal or the corruptible body might be swallowed up of the incorruptible body; but that corruption [might be swallowed up] *of life*. For then this happeneth, when the same body is raised; but if, giving up that body, He should prepare another, no longer is corruption swallowed up, but continueth dominant. Therefore this is not so; but *this corruptible*, that is to say the body, *must put on incorruption*. For the body is in a middle state<sup>3</sup>, being at present in<sup>3</sup> *μίσρον.*

<sup>4</sup> So Chrysostom here, but below with the Received text, “according to that,” &c.

HOMIL. this, and hereafter to be in that; and for this reason in  
 X. this first, because it is impossible for the incorruption to be dissolved. *For neither doth corruption inherit incorruption*, saith he, (for, how is it [then] incorruption?) but on the contrary, *corruption is swallowed up of life*: for this indeed survives the other, but not the other this. For as wax is melted by fire, but itself doth not melt the fire: so also doth corruption melt and vanish away under incorruption, but is never able itself to get the better of incorruption.

[6.] Let us then hear the voice of Paul, saying, that *we must stand at the judgment-seat of Christ*; and let us picture to ourselves that court of justice, and imagine it to be present now, and the reckoning to be required<sup>1</sup>. For I will speak of it more at large. For Paul, seeing that he was discoursing on affliction, and he had no mind to afflict them again, did not dwell on the subject; but having in brief expressed its austerity<sup>2</sup>, *Every one shall receive according to that he hath done*, he quickly passed on. Let us then imagine it to be present now, and reckon each one of us with his own conscience, and account the Judge to be already present, and every thing to be revealed and brought forth. For we must not merely stand, but also be manifested<sup>3</sup>. Do ye not blush? Are ye not astonished? But if now, when the reality is not yet present, but is granted in supposition merely, and imaged in thought; if now [I say] we perished conscience-struck; what shall we do when [it] shall arrive, when the whole world shall be present, when angels and archangels, when ranks upon ranks, and all hurrying at once, and some caught up<sup>4</sup> on the clouds, and an array full of trembling; when there shall be the trumpets, one upon another, [when] those unceasing voices?

For suppose there were no hell, yet in the midst of so great brightness to be rejected, and to go away dishonoured;—how great the punishment! For if even now, when the Emperor rideth in and his train with him, contemplating each one of us our own poverty, we derive not so much pleasure from the spectacle, as we endure dejection, at having no share in what is going on about the Emperor, nor being near the Sovereign; what will it be then? Or thinkest thou

<sup>1</sup> ἐνθύναις ἀπαίτησθαι.

<sup>2</sup> τὸ στῆ-φον.

<sup>3</sup> appear  
E. V.

<sup>4</sup> ἀερα-γαί

it is a light punishment, not to be ranked in that company, not to be counted worthy of that unutterable glory, <sup>2 Cor. V. 10.</sup> from that assemblage, and those untold good things, to be cast forth somewhither far and distant? But when there is also darkness, and gnashing of teeth, and chains indissoluble, and an undying worm, and fire unquenchable, and affliction, and straitness, and tongues scorching like the rich man's; and we wail, and none heareth; and we groan and gnash for anguish, and none regardeth; and we look all round, and no where is there any to comfort us: where shall we rank those that are in this condition? what is there more miserable than are those souls? what more pitiable? For if, when we enter a prison, and see its inmates, some squalid, some chained and famishing, some again shut up in darkness, we are moved with compassion, we shudder, we use all diligence that we may never be cast into that place; how will it be with us, when we are led and dragged away into the torture-dungeons<sup>1</sup> themselves of hell? <sup>1 βασανιστήρια.</sup> For not of iron are those chains, but of fire, that is never quenched; nor are they that are set over us our fellows, whom it is often possible even to mollify; but angels, whom one may not so much as look in the face, exceedingly enraged at our insults to their Master. Nor is it given, as here, to see some bringing in money, some food, some words of comfort, and to meet with consolation; but all is irremissible there: and though it should be Noah, or Job, or Daniel, and he should see his own kindred being punished, he dares not succour. For even natural sympathy too comes then to be done away. For since it happeneth that there are righteous fathers of wicked children, and [righteous] children of [wicked] fathers; that so their pleasure may be unalloyed, and those who enjoy the good things may not be moved with sorrow through the constraining force of sympathy, even this sympathy, I affirm, is extinguished, and themselves are indignant together with the Master against their own bowels. For if the common run of men, when they see their own children vicious, disinherit<sup>2</sup> and cut them off from that<sup>2</sup> <sup>2 ἀποκληρύττουσιν</sup> relationship; much rather will the righteous then. Therefore let no one hope for good things, if he have not wrought any good thing, even though he have ten thousand righteous

HOMIL. ancestors. *For every one shall receive the things done in*  
 X. *the body according to that he hath done.* Here he seems to  
 me to be alluding also to them that commit fornication: and  
<sup>1</sup> ἡ τῆς τοῦ  
 χιζων to raise up as a wall<sup>1</sup> unto them the fear of that world, not  
 however to them alone; but also to all that in any wise trans-  
 gress.

[7.] Let us hear then, us also. And if thou have the fire of  
 lust, set against it that other fire, and this will presently be  
 quenched and gone. And if thou purposest to utter some harsh  
<sup>2</sup> ἀπὸ τοῦ χιζων sounding<sup>2</sup> [speech], think of the gnashing of teeth, and the  
 fear will be a bridle to thee. And if thou purposest to plunder,  
 Matt. hear the Judge commanding, and saying, *Bind him hand and*  
 22, 13. *foot, and cast him into the outer darkness,* and thou wilt cast  
 out this lust also. And if thou art drunken, and surfeitest  
 Luke continually, hear the rich man saying, 'Send Lazarus, that with  
 16, 24. the tip of his finger he may cool this scorching tongue;' yet  
 not obtaining this; and thou wilt hold thyself aloof from that  
<sup>3</sup> ἀδόλως distemper<sup>3</sup>. But if thou lovest luxury, think of the affliction  
 and the straitness there, and thou wilt not think at all of this.  
 If again thou art harsh and cruel, bethink thee of those  
 virgins, who, when their lamps had gone out, missed so of  
 the bridal chamber, and thou wilt quickly become humane.  
 Or sluggish art thou, and remiss? Consider him that hid the  
 talent, and thou wilt be more vehement than fire. Or doth  
 desire of thy neighbour's substance devour thee? Think of  
 the worm that dieth not, and thou wilt easily both put away  
 from thee this disease, and in all other things wilt do virtu-  
 ously. For He hath enjoined nothing irksome nor oppres-  
 sive. Whence then do His injunctions appear irksome to  
 us? From our own slothfulness. For as, if we labour  
 diligently, even what appears intolerable will be light and  
 easy; so, if we are slothful, even things tolerable will seem to  
 us difficult.

Considering then all these things, let us think not of the  
 luxurious, but what is their end; here indeed filth and  
 obesity, there the worm and fire: not of the rapacious,  
 but what is their end; cares here, and fears, and anxieties;  
 there chains indissoluble: not of the lovers of glory, but  
 what these things bring forth; here slavery and dissemblings,  
 and there, both loss intolerable and perpetual burnings.

For if we thus discourse with ourselves, and if with these and such like things we charm perpetually our evil lusts, quickly shall we both cast out the love of the present things, and kindle that of the things to come. Let us therefore kindle it and make it blaze. For if the conception of them, although a faint sort of one, affords so great pleasure; think how great the gladness, the manifest realization itself shall bring us. Blessed, and thrice blessed, yea, thrice blessed many times, are they who enjoy those good things; just as, consequently, pitiable and thrice wretched are they who endure the opposite of these. That then we may be not of these but those, let us choose virtue. For so shall we attain unto the good things to come as well; which may all we attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ; by Whom, and with Whom, to the Father, together with the Holy Spirit, be glory, might, and honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.



## HOMILY XI.

2 COR. v. 11.

*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men: but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

KNOWING therefore, he says, these things, that terrible seat of judgment, we do every thing so as not to give you a handle nor offence, nor any false suspicion of evil practice against us. Seest thou the strictness of conversation, and zeal of a watchful soul? 'For we are not only open to accusation,' he saith, 'if we commit any evil deed; but even if we do not commit, but are suspected, and having it in our power to repel the suspicion, brave it, we are punished.'

Ver. 12. *For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory in our behalf.*

See how he is continually obviating the suspicion of appearing to praise himself. For nothing is so offensive to the hearers, as for any one to say great and marvellous things about himself. Since then he was compelled, in what he said, to fall upon that subject, he uses a corrective, saying, 'we do this for your sakes, not for ours, that ye may have somewhat to glory of, not that we may.' And not even this absolutely, but because of the false Apostles. Wherefore also he added, *Towards them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.* Seest thou how he hath detached them from them, and drawn them to himself; having shewn, that even the Corinthians themselves are longing to get hold of some occasion, whereby they may have it in their power to speak on their<sup>1</sup> behalf, and to defend them unto their accusers. For, says he, 'we say these things not that we may boast, but that ye may have wherein to speak freely on

<sup>1</sup> the  
Apo-  
stles'

our behalf;' which is the language of one testifying to their <sup>2</sup> Cor. great love: 'and not that ye may boast merely: but that ye <sup>V.13,14.</sup> may not be drawn aside.' But this he does not say explicitly, but manages his words otherwise and in a gentler form, and without dealing them a blow, saying,

*That ye may have somewhat to glory towards those which glory in appearance.* But neither this does he bid them do absolutely, when no cause exists, but when they <sup>1</sup> extol themselves; for in all things he looks out for the fitting occasion. <sup>1</sup> the false Apo- He does not then do this in order to shew himself to be illust- <sup>stiles</sup>rious, but to stop those men who were using the thing <sup>2</sup> <sup>i. e.</sup> improperly, and to the injury of these. But what is *in* <sup>com-</sup> *appearance*? In what is seen, in what is for display. For <sup>menda-</sup> of such sort were they, doing every thing out of a love of <sup>tion.</sup> honour, whilst they were both empty inwardly, and wore indeed an appearance of piety and of venerable seeming, whilst of good works they were destitute.

[2.] Ver. 13. *For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God; or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.*

And if, saith he, we have uttered any great thing, (for this is what he here calls being beside himself, as therefore in other places also he calls it *folly*;) for God's sake we do this, <sup>2</sup> Cor. lest ye thinking us to be worthless, should despise us and <sup>11, 1.</sup> <sup>17. 21.</sup> perish; or if again any modest and lowly thing, it is for your sakes, that ye may learn to be lowly-minded. Or else, again, he means this. If any one thinks us to be mad, we seek for our reward from God, for Whose sake we are of this suspected; but if he thinks us sober, let him reap the advantage of our soberness. And again, in another way. Does any one say we are mad? For God's sake are we in such sort mad. Wherefore also he subjoins.

Ver. 14. *For the love of God<sup>3</sup> constraineth us, because* <sup>3</sup> Rec. *we thus judge.* <sup>text,</sup> <sup>Christ;</sup>

'For not the fear of things to come only,' he saith, 'but also those which have already happened allow us not to be slothful, nor to slumber; but stir us up, and impel us, to these our labours on your behalf.' And what are those things which have already happened?

*That if one died for all, then were all dead.* 'Surely then it was because all were lost,' saith he. For except all

HOMIL. XI. were dead, He had not died for all. For here the opportunities<sup>1</sup> of salvation exist; but there are found no longer. Therefore, he says, *The love of God constraineth us*, and allows us not to be at rest. For it cometh of extreme wretchedness, and is worse than hell itself, that when He hath set forth an act so mighty, any should be found, after so great an instance of His provident care, reaping no benefit. For great was the excess of that love, both to die for a world of such extent<sup>2</sup>, and dying for it when in such a state.

<sup>2</sup> τὸσαύ-  
της

Ver. 15. *That they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him Which died for them, and rose again.*

If therefore we ought not to live unto ourselves, 'be not troubled,' says he, 'nor be confounded when dangers and deaths assail you.' And he assigns besides an indubitable argument, by which he shews that the thing is a debt. For if through Him we live, who were dead; to Him we ought to live, through Whom we live. And what is said appears indeed to be one thing, but if any one accurately examine it, it is two: one that we live by Him, another that He died for us: either of which even by itself is enough to make us liable; but when both are even united, consider how great the debt is. Yea, rather, there are three things here. For the First-fruits also for thy sake He raised up, and led up to heaven: wherefore also he added, *Which died for us, and rose again.*

[3.] Ver. 16. *Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh.*

For if all died, and all rose again; and in such sort died, as Titus 3, the tyranny of sin condemned them; but rose again *through the laver of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost*; he saith with reason, *we know none of the faithful after the flesh.* For what if even they be in the flesh? Yet is that fleshly life destroyed, and we are born again<sup>3</sup> by the Spirit, and have learnt another conversation, and rule, and life, and condition<sup>4</sup>, that, namely, in the heavens. And again of this itself he shews Christ to be the Author. Wherefore also he added,

<sup>3</sup> ἠνωθέν  
as John  
3, 3.  
<sup>4</sup> κατὰ-  
σπουδὴν

*Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we Him no more.*

(2.) What then? tell me. Did He put away the flesh, and is He now not with that body? Away with the thought, for He is

even now clothed in flesh; for *this Jesus, Who is taken up* <sup>2 Cor. V.</sup> *from you into Heaven, shall so come.* So? How? In flesh, <sup>17, 18.</sup> with His body. How then doth he say, *Yea, though we* <sup>Acts 1,</sup> *have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth no* <sup>11.</sup> *more?* For in us indeed *after the flesh* is being in sins, and *not after the flesh* not being in sins; but in Christ, *after the flesh* is His being subject to the affections of nature, such as to thirst, to hunger, to weariness, to sleep. For *He did no* <sup>1 Pet. 2, 22.</sup> *sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.* Wherefore He also said, *Which of you convinceth Me of sin?* and again, <sup>John 8, 46.</sup> *The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me.* <sup>Ib. 14,</sup> And *not after the flesh* is being thenceforward freed even <sup>30.</sup> from these things, not the being without flesh. For with this also He cometh to judge the world, His being impassible and pure. Whereunto we also shall advance, when *our body* <sup>Phil. 3,</sup> *hath been fashioned like unto His glorious body.* <sup>21.</sup>

[4.] Ver. 17. *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation.*

For seeing he had exhorted unto virtue from His love, he now leads them on to this from what has been actually done for them; wherefore also he added, *If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.* "If any," saith he, "have believed in Him, he has come to another creation, for he hath been born again by the Spirit." So that for this cause also, he says, we ought to live unto Him, not because we are not our own only, nor because He died for us only, nor because He raised up our Firstfruits only, but because we have also come unto another life. See how many just grounds he urges for a life of virtue. For on this account he also calls the reformation by a grosser name<sup>1</sup>, in order to shew the transition <sup>1 i.e. creation.</sup> and the change to be great. Then following out farther what he had said, and shewing how it is *a new creation*, he adds,

*Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.*

What old things? He means either sins and impieties, or else all the Judaical observances. Yea rather, he means both the one and the other. *Behold, all things are become new.*

Ver. 18. *And all things are of God.*

Nothing of ourselves. For remission of sins, and adoption, and unspeakable glory, are given to us by Him.

HOMIL. For he exhorts them no longer from the things to come only,  
 XI. but even from those now present. For consider. He said, that we shall be raised again, and go on unto incorruption, and have an eternal house; but since present things have more force to persuade than things to come, with those who believe not in these, as they ought to believe, he shews how great things they have even already received, and being themselves what. What then being, received they them? Dead all; (for he saith, *all were dead*; and, *He died for all*; so loved He all alike;) inveterate all, and grown old in their vices. But behold, both a new soul, (for it was cleansed,) and a new body, and a new worship, and promises new, and covenant, and life, and table, and dress, and all things new

<sup>1</sup> ἀπλῶς, absolutely. For instead of the Jerusalem below, we have Gal. 4, 26. received that mother city which is above; and instead of a material temple, have seen a spiritual temple; instead of tables of stone, fleshy ones; instead of circumcision, baptism; instead of the manna, the Lord's body; instead of water from a rock, blood from His side; instead of Moses' or Aaron's rod, the Cross; instead of the promised [land]<sup>a</sup>, the kingdom of heaven; instead of a thousand priests, one High Priest; <sup>2</sup> ἀλόγου instead of a lamb without reason<sup>2</sup>, a Spiritual Lamb. With these and such like things in his thought, he said, *all things are new*. But *all these things are of God* by Christ, and His free gift. Wherefore also he added,

*Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

For from Him are all the good things. For He that made us friends, is Himself the cause of the other things also, which God hath given to His friends. For He rendered not these things unto us, allowing us to continue enemies, but having made us friends unto Himself. But when I say that Christ is the cause of our reconciliation, I say the Father is so also: when I say that the Father gave, I say the Son gave also.

John 1, 3. *For all things were made by Him*; and of this too He is the Author. For we ran not unto Him, but He Himself called us. How called He us? By the sacrifice of Christ.

<sup>a</sup> Literally "the promise." Elsewhere St. Chrysostom uses the expression for the promised land. See Hom. xxxix. on St. Matt. Oxf. Trans. p. 563.

"We must not only be delivered out of Egypt, but we must also enter into the Promise."



*And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

2 COR.  
V. 19.

Here again he sets forth the dignity of the Apostles; shewing how great a thing was committed to their hands; and the surpassing greatness of the love of God. For even when they would not hear the Ambassador that came, He was not exasperated, nor left them to themselves, but He continueth to exhort them both in His own person, and by others. Who can be worthily amazed at this solicitude? The Son Who came to reconcile, His True and Only-Begotten, was slain; yet not even so did the Father turn away from His murderers; nor said, "I sent My Son as an Ambassador, but they not only would not hear Him, but even slew and crucified Him; it is meet henceforth to leave them to themselves:" but quite the contrary, when the Son departed, He entrusted the business to us; for he says, *hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

[5.] Ver. 19. *To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.*

Seest thou love surpassing all expression, all conception? Who was the aggrieved one? Himself. Who first sought the reconciliation? Himself. 'And yet,' saith one, 'He sent the Son, He did not come Himself.' The Son indeed it was He sent; still not He alone besought, but both with Him and by Him the Father; wherefore he said, that *God was reconciling the world unto Himself in Christ*; that is, by Christ. For seeing he had said, *Who hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation*; he hath here used a corrective, saying, "Think not that we act of our own authority" <sup>1</sup> αὐθιγται in the business: we are ministers; and He that doeth the whole is God, Who hath reconciled the world by the Only-Begotten." And how hath He reconciled it unto Himself? For this is the marvel, not that it was made a friend only, but also by this way a friend. This way? What way? Forgiving them their sins; for in no other way was it possible. Wherefore also he added, *Not imputing their trespasses unto them.* For had it been His pleasure to require an account of the things we had transgressed in, we should all have perished; for *all were dead*. But nevertheless though our sins were so great, He not only did not require satisfaction, but even became

HOMIL. reconciled; He not only forgave, but He did not even *impute*.  
 XI. So ought we also to forgive our enemies, that ourselves too may obtain the like forgiveness.

*And hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

For neither have we come now on any odious office; but to make all men friends with God. For He saith, 'Since they were not persuaded by Me, do ye continue beseeching until ye have persuaded them.' Wherefore also he added,

Ver. 20. *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us, we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

(3.) Seest thou how he has extolled the thing: by introducing  
<sup>1</sup> τὸν ἱε- Christ thus in the form of a suppliant<sup>1</sup>: yea rather not  
 τὴν ἱε- Christ only, but even the Father? For what he says is  
 τήρουν this: 'The Father sent the Son to beseech, and to be His  
 ταύτην. Ambassador unto mankind. When then He was slain and  
 gone, we succeeded to the embassy; and in His stead  
 and the Father's we beseech you. So greatly doth He prize  
 the human kind, that He gave up even the Son, and that  
 knowing that He would be slain, and hath made us Apostles  
 for your sakes; so that he said with reason, *All things are  
 2 Cor. for your sakes. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ,*  
 4, 15. that is, instead of Christ; for we have succeeded to His  
 functions.' But if this appears to thee a great thing, hear  
 also what follows, wherein he shews, that they do this not in  
 His stead only, but also in stead of the Father. For therefore  
 he also added, *As though God did beseech you by us.* 'For  
 not by the Son Himself only doth He beseech, but also by  
 us who have succeeded to the office of the Son. Think  
 not therefore,' he says, 'that by us you are entreated;  
 Christ Himself, the Father Himself of Christ, beseeches  
 you by us. What can come up to this excess [of good-  
 ness]? He was outraged who had conferred innumerable  
 benefits; having been outraged, He not only exacted not  
 justice, but He even gave His Son that we might be re-  
 conciled. They that received Him were not reconciled, but  
 even slew Him. Again, He sent other ambassadors to  
 beseech, and though these are sent, it is Himself that  
 entreats. And what doth He entreat? *Be ye reconciled  
 unto God.* And he said not, 'Reconcile God to yourselves;'

for it is not He that beareth enmity, but ye; for God never beareth enmity. Urging moreover his cause, like an ambassador on his mission, he says,

2 COR.  
V. 21.  
1 δικαι-  
ολογού-  
μενος

Ver. 21. *For Him that knew no sin, He hath made sin for us.*

'I say nothing of what has gone before, that ye have outraged Him, Him that had done you no wrong, Him that had done you good, that He exacted not justice, that He is first to beseech, though first outraged; let none of these things be laid down at present. Ought ye not in justice to be reconciled for this one thing only that He hath done to you now?' And what hath He done? *Him that knew no sin, He hath made sin for you.* For had He achieved nothing, but done only this, think how great a thing it were to give His Son for those that had outraged Him. But now He hath both well achieved mighty things, and besides, hath suffered Him, that did no wrong, to be punished for those who had done wrong. But he did not say this: but mentioned that which is far greater than this. What then is this? *Him that knew no sin*, he says, Him that was righteousness itself<sup>2</sup>, *He made sin*, that is, suffered as a sinner to be<sup>2</sup> *αὐτοδι- καιομένην* Gal. 3, condemned, as one cursed, to die. *For cursed is he that hangeth on a tree.* For to die thus was far greater than to die; and this he also elsewhere implying, saith, *Being made obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.* For<sup>8</sup> this thing carried with it not only punishment, but also disgrace. Reflect therefore how great things He bestowed on thee. For a great thing indeed it were, for even a sinner to die for any one whatever; but when He who undergoes this both is righteous, and dieth for sinners; and not dieth only, but even as one cursed; and not as cursed [dieth] only, but thereby freely bestoweth upon us those great goods, which we never looked for; (for he says, that *we might be made the righteousness of God in Him*;) what words, what thought shall be adequate to realize these things? 'For the righteous,' saith he, 'He made a sinner; that He might make the sinners righteous.' Yea rather, he said not even so, but what was greater far; for the word he employed is not the habit, but the quality itself. For he said not *made* [Him] a sinner, but *sin*; not, 'Him that had not sinned' only, but

HOMIL. *that had not even known sin ; that we also might be made,*  
 XI. he did not say ‘ righteous,’ but, *righteousness*, and, *the righteousness of God*. For this is [the righteousness] *of God*, when we are justified not by works, (in which case it were necessary that not a spot even should be found,) but by grace, in which case all sin is done away. And this at the same time that it suffers us not to be lifted up, (seeing the whole is the free gift of God,) teaches us also the greatness of that which is given. For that which was before, was a righteousness of the Law and of works, but this is *the righteousness of God*.

MORAL. [6.] Reflecting then on these things, let us fear these words more than hell ; let us reverence the things [they express] more than the kingdom, and let us not deem it grievous to be punished, but to sin. For were He not to punish us, we ought to take vengeance on ourselves, who have been so ungrateful towards our Benefactor. Now he, that hath an object of affection, hath often even slain himself, when unsuccessful in his love ; and though successful, if he hath been guilty of a fault towards her, counts it not fit that he should even live ; and shall not we, when we outrage One so loving and gentle, cast ourselves into the fire of hell ? Shall I say something strange, and marvellous, and to many perhaps incredible ? To one who hath understanding, and loveth the Lord as it behoveth to love Him, there will be greater comfort if punished, after provoking One so loving, than

(4.) if not punished. And this one may see also by the common practice. For he that has wronged his dearest friend, feels then the greatest relief, when he has wreaked vengeance on himself, and suffered evil. And accordingly David said, *I the shepherd have sinned, and I the shepherd have done amiss ; and these the flock, what have they done ? Let Thy hand be upon me, and upon my father’s house*. And when he lost Absalom, he wreaked the extremest vengeance upon himself, although he was not the injurer but the injured ; but nevertheless, because he loved the departed exceedingly, he racked himself with anguish, in this manner comforting himself. Let us therefore also, when we sin against Him, Whom we ought not to sin against, take vengeance on ourselves. See you not those who have lost true-born children,

that they therefore both beat themselves and tear their hair, <sup>2 COR. V. 21.</sup> because to punish themselves, for the sake of those they loved, carries comfort with it. But if, when we have caused no harm to those dearest to us, to suffer because of what hath befallen them, brings consolation; when ourselves are the persons who have given provocation and wrong, will it not much rather be a relief to us to suffer the penalty? and will not, not being punished, punish? Every one in a manner will see this. If any love Christ as it behoveth to love Him, he knoweth what I say; how, even when He forgiveth, he will not endure to go unpunished; for thou understandest the severest punishment in having provoked Him. And I know indeed that I am speaking what will not be believed by the many; but nevertheless it is so, as I have said. If then we love Christ, as it behoveth to love Him, we shall punish ourselves when we sin. For to those who love any whomsoever, not the therefore suffering somewhat, because they have provoked the beloved one, is displeasing; but that, more than all, to have provoked the person loved. And if this last when angered doth not punish, he hath tortured his lover more; but if he exacts satisfaction, he hath comforted him rather. Let us therefore fear, not hell, but offending God; for it is more grievous than that, when He turns away in wrath: this is worse than all, this heavier than all. And that thou mayest learn what a thing it is, consider this which I say. If one, that was himself a king, beholding a robber and malefactor under punishment, gave his well-beloved son, his only-begotten, and true, to be slain; and transferred the death, and the guilt as well, from him to his son, (who was himself of no such character,) that he might both save the condemned man, and clear him from his evil reputation; and then, if, having subsequently promoted him to great dignity, he had yet, after thus saving him, and advancing him to that glory unspeakable, been outraged by the person that had received such treatment: would not that man, if he had any sense, have chosen ten thousand deaths, rather than appear guilty of so great ingratitude? This then let us also now consider with ourselves, and groan bitterly for the provocations we have offered our Benefactor; nor let us therefore presume, because though outraged He bears it with



HOMIL. long-suffering; but rather for this very reason be full of  
 XI. remorse<sup>1</sup>. For amongst men too, when one that hath been  
<sup>1</sup> δακνός-  
 μεθε- smitten on the right cheek offers the left also, he more  
 avengeth himself than if he gave ten thousand blows; and  
 when one that hath been reviled, not only revileth not again,  
 but even blesseth, he hath stricken [his adversary] more  
 heavily, than if he bespattered him with ten thousand re-  
 proaches. Now if in the case of men we feel ashamed, when  
 offering insults we meet with long-suffering; much rather, in  
 respect to God, ought they to be afraid who go on continually  
 sinning, yet suffer no calamity. For, even for evil unto their  
 own heads, is that unspeakable punishment being treasured  
 up for them. These things then bearing in mind, let us  
 above all things be afraid of sin; for this is punishment, this  
 is hell, this is those ten thousand ills. And let us not only  
 be afraid of, but also flee from it, and strive to please God  
 continually; for this is the kingdom, this is life, this is those  
 ten thousand goods. So shall we also, even here, obtain  
 already the kingdom, and the good things to come; where-  
 unto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards  
 men of our Lord Jesus Christ; with Whom to the Father,  
 with the Holy Spirit, be glory, might, honour, now and for  
 ever, and world without end. Amen.

## HOMILY XII.

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2 COR. vi. 1, 2.

*We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee.*

FOR since he said, God beseeches, and we are ambassadors and suppliants unto you, that ye be *reconciled unto God*: lest they should become supine, he hereby again alarms and arouses them, saying; *We beseech you that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.* 'For let us not,' he says, 'therefore be at ease, because He beseeches, and hath sent some to be ambassadors; nay, but for this very reason let us make haste to please God, and to collect spiritual merchandise;' as also he said above, *The love of God constraineth us*, c. 5, 14. that is, presseth, driveth, urgeth us, 'that ye may not, after so much affectionate care, by being supine, and exhibiting no nobleness, miss of such great blessings. Do not therefore, because He hath sent some to exhort you, deem that this will always be so. It will be so until His second coming; until then He beseeches, so long as we are here; but after that, is judgment, and punishment.' Therefore, he says, *we are constrained.*

For not only from the greatness of the blessings, and His loving-kindness, but also from the shortness of the time he urgeth them continually. Wherefore he saith also elsewhere, *For now is our salvation nearer.* And again; *The Lord is at hand.* But here he does something yet more.

Rom.  
13, 11.  
Philipp.  
4, 5.

HOMIL. For not from the fact, that the remainder of the time is  
 XII short and little, but also from its being the only season  
 available for salvation, he inciteth them,

For, *Behold*, he saith, *now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation*. Let us therefore not let slip the favourable opportunity but display a zeal worthy of the grace. For therefore is it, that we also press forward, knowing both the shortness and the suitableness of the time. Wherefore also he said ; *We then as workers together beseech also. Workers together* with you ; ' for we work together with you, rather than with God, for Whom we are ambassadors. For He is in need of nothing, but the salvation all passeth over to you.' But if it is even with God that he speaks of working together, he repudiates not even this [interpretation] ; for he says in another place,  
 1 Cor. *For we are workers together with God* ; in this way, saith he,  
 3, 9. to save men. Again, *We also beseech you*. For He indeed, when beseeching, doth not barely beseech, but sets forth these His just claims ; namely, that He gave His Son, the Just One, that did not so much as know sin, and made Him to be sin for us sinners, that we might be made righteous ; which claims having, and being God, He ought not to beseech, and that men, and who had offended Him, but to be besought by them every day : but nevertheless He beseecheth. But we beseech, having no claim of our own to allege, nor benefit ; but one thing alone, namely, that we beseech for God, Who hath also displayed such goodness. But what we beseech is, that ye would receive the benefit, and not reject the gift. Be persuaded therefore by us, and *receive not the grace in vain*. For lest they should think that this of itself is *reconciliation*, believing on Him that calleth ; he adds these words, requiring that earnestness which respects the life. For, for one who hath been freed from sins and made a friend, to wallow in the former things, is to return again unto enmity, and to *receive the grace in vain*, in respect of the life. For we reap no great benefit from *the grace* towards salvation, if we live impurely ; nay, we are even harmed, having this greater aggravation even of our sins, in that after such knowledge and such a gift we have returned back again to our former vices. This however he does not mention as yet : that he may not make his words

harsh, but only says that we reap no benefit. Then he also <sup>2 COR.</sup> reminds of a prophecy, urging and compelling them to <sup>V1. 2.</sup> bestir themselves, in order to lay hold of their own salvation.

*For, saith he, He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

*The accepted time.* What is this? That of the Gift, that of the Grace, when it is appointed not that an account should be required of our sins, nor penalty exacted; but besides being delivered, that we should also enjoy ten thousand goods, righteousness, sanctification, and all the rest. For how much toil would it have behoved us to undergo, in order to obtain this *time*! But, behold, without our toiling at all it hath come, bringing remission of all that was before. Wherefore also He calls it *accepted*, because He both accepted those that had transgressed in ten thousand things, and not accepted merely, but advanced them to the highest honour; just as, when a monarch arrives, it is a time not for judgment, but for grace and pardon. Wherefore also (2.) He calleth it *accepted*. Whilst then we are yet in the lists<sup>1</sup>, whilst we are at work in the vineyard, whilst the eleventh hour is left [us], let us draw nigh and shew forth life; for it is also easy. For he that striveth for the mastery<sup>2</sup> at such a time, when so great a gift hath been shed forth, when so great grace, will easily obtain the prizes. For in the case of monarchs here below also, at the time of their festivals, and when they appear in the dress of Consuls, he who bringeth a small offering, receiveth large gifts; but on the days in which they sit in judgment, much strictness, much sifting is requisite. Let us too therefore strive for the mastery in the time of this gift. It is a day of grace, of grace divine; wherefore, with ease even, we shall obtain the crown. For if when laden with so great evils He both received and delivered us: when delivered from all, and contributing our part, shall He not rather accept us?

[2.] Then, as it is his constant wont, namely, to place himself before them, and bid them hence to take their example, so he does in this place also. Wherefore also he addeth,

<sup>1</sup> ἐν τῇ  
σκάμ-  
ματι  
<sup>2</sup> ἀγωνι-  
ζόμενος,  
as 1 Cor.  
9, 25

HOMIL. Ver. 3. *Giving no offence in any thing, that our ministry<sup>1</sup>*  
 XII. *be not blamed,*

<sup>1</sup> the ministry Persuading them not from considering *the time* only, but also those that had successfully laboured with them.

<sup>2</sup> αὐτίκως And behold with what absence of pride<sup>2</sup>. For he said not, 'Look at us how we are such and such,' but, for the present, it is only to do away accusation that he relates his own conduct. And he mentions two excessive heights of a blameless life, *none in any thing*. And he said not 'accusation,' but, what was far less, *offence*; that is, giving ground against us to none for censure, for condemnation, *that our ministry be not blamed*; that is, that none may take hold of it. And again, he said not, 'that it be not accused,' but that it may not have the least fault, nor any one have it in his power to animadvert upon it in any particular.

Ver. 4. *But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God.*

This is far greater. For it is not the same thing to be free from accusation; and to exhibit such characters, as in every thing to be seen to be *the ministers of God*. For neither is it the same thing to be quit of accusation, and to be covered<sup>3</sup> with praises. And he said not appearing, but *approving*, that is, 'proving.' Then he mentions also whence they became such. Whence then was it? *In much patience*, he says, laying the foundation of those good things. Wherefore he said not barely *patience*, but *much*, and he shews also how great it was. For to bear some one or two things is no great matter. But he addeth, snow-storms even of trials, in the words, *In afflictions, in necessities*. This is a heightening of affliction, when the evils are unavoidable; and there lies upon one as it were a necessity hardly ex-  
<sup>3</sup> βροῦν, 'blossom.'  
<sup>4</sup> δυσδιεξέδευτος. tricable<sup>4</sup> of misfortune. *In distresses*. Either he means those of hunger, and of other necessities, or else simply those of their temptations.

Ver. 5. *In stripes, in imprisonments, in tossings to and fro*<sup>a</sup>.

Yet every one of these by itself was intolerable, both being scourged only, and being bound only, and being

<sup>a</sup> ἀνατασ탈αίς, so translated in the marg. of the English Version, which, it will be seen, agrees best with the comment of St. Chrysostom.



unable through persecution to remain fixed<sup>1</sup>, any where, <sup>2 Cor.</sup> (for this is in 'tossings to and fro,') but when both all, and all <sup>VI. 5, 6.</sup> at once, assail, consider what a soul they need. Then along <sup>στήναι.</sup> with the things from without, he mentions those imposed by himself.

Ver. 5, 6. *In labours, in watchings, in fastings; by pureness.*

In these words he alludes to the labours in which he <sup>Acts 18,</sup> toiled, as he went about, and wrought; the nights in which <sup>3.</sup> he taught; or, that even in them he wrought. And along <sup>I Thess. 2, 9.</sup> with all these he neglected not fasting either, although these might have sufficed instead of ten thousand fasts. But by *pureness* here, he means either chasteness again, or general purity, or incorruptness, or even his preaching the Gospel freely.

*By knowledge.* What is *by knowledge*? By wisdom such as is given from God; that which is truly knowledge; not as those that seem to be wise, and boast of their acquaintance with the heathen discipline, but are deficient in this.

*By long-suffering, by kindness.* For this also is a great note of a noble soul, though exasperated, and goaded on every side, to bear all with long-suffering. Then to shew whence he became such, he added;

*By the Holy Ghost.* 'For by Him,' he saith, 'we do all these good works.' But observe when it is that he has mentioned the aid of the Holy Ghost. After he had set forth what was from himself. Moreover, he seems to me to say another thing herein. What then is this? Namely, 'we have both been filled with abundance of the Spirit, and hereby also give a proof of our Apostleship, in that we have been counted worthy of spiritual gifts.' For if this be grace also, yet still he himself was the cause, who by his good works and his toils<sup>2</sup> had attracted that grace. And if any should assert <sup>2literally</sup> that besides what has been said, he shews that, in his use of the gifts of the Spirit also, he gave none offence; he would not miss of his meaning. For they who received the [gift of] tongues amongst them, and were lifted up, were blamed. For it is possible for one even in receiving a gift of the Spirit, not to use it aright. 'But not so we,' he saith, 'but in the Spirit also, that is, in the gifts also, we have been blameless.'

HOMIL.  
XII.  
(3.) *In love unfeigned.* This was the cause of all those good things; this made him what he was; this caused the Spirit also to abide with him, by Whose aid also all things were rightly done of him.

*Ver. 7. By the word of truth.*

A thing he says in many places, that ‘we have continued neither to handle the word of God deceitfully, nor adulterate it.’

*By the power of God.* That which he always does, ascribing nothing to himself, but the whole to God, and imputing whatsoever he hath done aright to Him, this he hath done here also. For since he hath uttered great things, and affirmed that he had manifested in all things an irreproachable life, and exalted wisdom, he ascribes this to the Spirit and to God. For neither were those common place things which he had said. For if it be a difficult thing even for one who lives in quiet to do aright, and be irreproachable, consider him who was harassed by so great temptations, and yet shone forth through all, what a spirit he was of! And yet he underwent not these alone, but even far more than these, as he mentions next. And what is indeed marvellous is, not that he was irreproachable though sailing in such mighty waves, nor that he endured all nobly, but all with pleasure even. Which things, all, he makes clear to us by the next words, saying,

*By the armour of righteousness the right and left.*

[3.] Seest thou his self-possession of soul, and well-strung spirit? For he shews that afflictions are arms, not only which strike not down, but do even fortify and make stronger. And he calls those things *left*, which seem to be painful; for such those are which bring with them the reward. Wherefore then doth he call them thus? Either in conformity with the conception of the generality, or because God hath commanded us to pray that we enter not into temptation.

*Ver. 8. By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report.*

What sayest thou? That thou enjoyest honour, and setting down this as a great thing? ‘Yes,’ he saith. Why, forsooth?

For to bear dishonour indeed is a great thing, but to partake  
<sup>ἡ δὲ αἰσχύνη</sup> of honour requires not a vigorous<sup>1</sup> soul. Yes, indeed, a

vigorous and exceeding great soul, that he who enjoys it may not be thrown and break his neck<sup>1</sup>. Wherefore he glories in this as well as in that, for he shone equally in both. But how is it a weapon of righteousness? Because that the teachers are held in honour induceth many unto godliness. And besides, this is a proof of good works, and this glorifieth God. And this is, further, an instance of the wise contrivance of God, that by things which are opposite He brings in the Preaching. For consider. Was Paul bound? This too was on behalf of the Gospel. For, saith he, *the things which have happened unto me, have fallen out unto the furtherance of the Gospel; so that the more part of the brethren, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.* Again, did he enjoy honour? This too again rendered them more forward. *By evil report, and good report.* For not only did he bear those things nobly which happen to the body, the *afflictions*, and whatever he enumerated, but those also which touch the soul; for neither are these wont to disturb slightly. Jeremiah at least having borne many temptations, gave in upon these, and when he was reproached, said, *I will not prophesy, neither will I name the Name of the Lord*<sup>a</sup>. And David too in many places complains of reproach. Isaiah also, after many things, exhorteth concerning this, saying, *Fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye overcome by their reviling.* And again, Christ also to His disciples; *When they shall speak all manner of evil against you falsely, rejoice, and be exceeding glad,* He saith, *for great is your reward in heaven.* Elsewhere too He says, *And leap for joy.* But He would not have made the reward so great, had not the contest been a great one. For in tortures, the body also shareth the anguish with the soul; for the pain is both of the body and of the soul; but in that other case, it is of the soul alone. Many at any rate have fallen by these alone, and have lost their own souls. And to Job also, the reproaches of his friends appeared more grievous than the worms and the sores. For there is nothing, there is nothing more intolerable to those in affliction, than a word capable of stinging the soul. Wherefore along with the perils and

2 COR.  
VI. 8.  
ἐκ τῆς  
χρηλίσ-  
θῆναι.

Phil. 1,  
12. 14.

22 ἀπηγό-  
ρευς.  
Jer. 20,

Is. 51, 7.  
LXX.

Matt. 5,  
11. 12.

Luke 6,  
23.

<sup>a</sup> So Chrys. not exactly agreeing either with the English Version or the LXX.

HOMIL. the toils he names these also, saying, *By honour and dis-*  
 XII. *honour.* At any rate, many of the Jews also, on account of  
 honour paid by the many, would not believe. For they  
 feared, not lest they should be punished, but, lest they  
 should be put out of the synagogue. Wherefore He saith,  
 John 5, *How can ye believe which receive honour one of another?*  
 44. And we may see numbers, who have indeed despised all  
 dangers, but have been worsted by honour.

[4.] *As deceivers, and yet true.*

*This is, by evil report and good report.*

Ver. 9. *As unknown, and yet well known.*

*This is, by honour and dishonour.* For by some they were  
 well known, and much sought after, whilst others deigned  
 not to know them at all.

*As dying, and, behold, we live.*

As under sentence of death, and condemned; which was  
 (4.) itself also matter of dishonour. But this he said, to shew  
 both the unspeakable power of God, and their own patience.  
 For so far as those who plotted against us were concerned,  
 we were dead; and this is what all suppose [us]; but by  
 God's aid we escaped the dangers. Then to manifest also, on  
 what account God permits these things, he added,

*As chastened, and not killed.*

Shewing that the gain accruing to them from their tempt-  
 ations, even before the rewards, was great, and that their  
 enemies did them service against their wills.

Ver. 10. *As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing.*

For with those that are without, indeed, we are suspected  
 of being in despair; but we give no heed to them; yea,  
 1 ἀκαμά- we have our pleasure at the full<sup>1</sup>. And he said not *re-*  
 ζουσαν *joicing* only, but added also its perpetuity, for he says,  
*alway rejoicing.* What then can come up to this life?  
 wherein, although dangers so great assault, the joy becometh  
 greater.

*As poor, yet making many rich.*

Some indeed affirm, that the spiritual riches are spoken of  
 here; but I would say, that the carnal are so too; for they  
 were rich in these also, having, after a new kind of manner,  
 the houses of all open to them. And this too he signified  
 by what follows, saying,



*As having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

2 COR.  
VI. 10.

And how can this be? Yea rather, how can the opposite be? For he that possesseth many things, hath nothing; and he that hath nothing, possesseth the goods of all<sup>1</sup>. And not<sup>1</sup> τὰ πάντων, here only, but also in the other points, contraries were produced by their contraries. But if thou marvellest how it is possible for one that hath nothing to have all things, let us bring forth this man himself into the midst, who commanded the world, and was lord not only of their substance, but of their very eyes even. *If it had been possible*, he says, *ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.* Gal. 4, 15. τὰ πάντα

Now these things he says, to instruct us not to be disturbed at the opinions of the many, though they call us deceivers, though they know us not, though they count us condemned<sup>2</sup>, and appointed unto death, to be in sorrow, to be<sup>2</sup> κατὰ δίκους in poverty, to have nothing, to be (us, who are in cheerfulness) desponding: because that the sun even is not clear to the blind, nor the pleasure of the sane intelligible<sup>3</sup> to the mad.<sup>3</sup> δόλη. For the faithful only are right judges of these matters, and are not pleased and pained at the same things as other people. For if any one, who knew nothing of the games, were to see a boxer, having wounds upon him, and wearing a crown; he would think him in pain on account of the wounds, not understanding the pleasure the crown would give him. And these therefore, because they know what we suffer, but do not know for what we suffer them, naturally suspect that there is nought besides these; for they see indeed the wrestling and the dangers, but not the prizes, and the crowns, and the subject<sup>4</sup> of the contest. What then were<sup>4</sup> ὑπέρ- the *all things* which Paul possessed, when he said, *As* σιν, see below. *having nothing, and yet possessing all things?* Things temporal<sup>5</sup>, things spiritual. For he whom the cities received as<sup>5</sup> βιωτικὰ. an angel, for whom they would have plucked out their own Gal. 4, eyes and have given them to him, he for whom they laid Rom. 14, 15. down their own necks, how had he not all things that were 16, 4. theirs? But if thou desirest to see the spiritual also, thou wilt find him in these things also especially rich. For he that was so dear to the King of all, as even to share in c. 12, 4. unspeakable things with the Lord of the angels, how was not he more opulent than all men, and had all things? Devils



HOMIL. had not else been so subject to him, suffering and disease  
XII. had not so fled away<sup>1</sup>.

ἰδραπί-  
τις.

[5.] And let us therefore, when we suffer aught for Christ's sake, not merely bear it nobly, but also rejoice. If we fast, let us leap for joy as if enjoying luxury; if we be insulted, let us dance as if praised; if we spend, let us feel as if gaining; if we bestow on the poor, let us count ourselves to receive; for he that gives not thus, will not give readily. When then thou hast a mind to scatter abroad, look not at this only, that thou spendest; but, that thou also gainest more; and at this rather than that. And not only in almsgiving, but also in every kind of virtue, compute not alone the austereness of the toils, but also the sweetness of the prizes; and before all the subject of this wrestling, our Lord Jesus; and thou wilt readily enter upon the contests, and wilt live the whole time in pleasure. For nothing is wont so to cause pleasure, as a good conscience.

Therefore Paul indeed, though wounded every day, rejoiced and exulted; but the men of this day, although they endure  
<sup>2</sup> οὐδὲ ὄναρ not a shadow even<sup>2</sup> of what he did, grieve and make lamentations, from no other cause, than that they have not a mind full of heavenly philosophy. For, tell me, wherefore the lamentation? Because thou art poor, and in want of necessities? Surely for this thou oughtest rather to make lamentation, [not]<sup>a</sup> because thou weepest, not because thou art poor, but because thou art mean-spirited; not because thou hast not money, but because thou prizest money so highly. Paul died daily, yet wept not, but even rejoiced; he fought with continual hunger, but grieved not, but even gloried in  
(5.) it. And dost thou, because thou hast not all the year's provisions stored up, grieve and beat thyself? 'Yes,' he replies, 'for he had to care only for his own needs, whilst I have besides to care for servants, and children, and wife.' Rather, he alone had not to care for his own needs, but for the whole world's. And thou indeed [hast to care] for one household, but he for those so many poor at Jerusalem, for those in Macedonia, for those every where in poverty, for those who give to them, no less than for those who receive. For his care for the world was of a twofold nature, both that they

<sup>a</sup> All the Mss. have the word "not," but the sense seems to require its omission.

might not be destitute of necessaries, and that they might be <sup>2 Cor. VI. 10.</sup> rich in spiritual things. And thy famishing children distress not thee so much, as all the concerns of the faithful did him. Why do I say, of the faithful? For neither was he free from care for the unfaithful, but was so eaten up with it, that he wished even to become accursed for their sakes; but thou, were a famine to rage ten thousand times over, wouldest never choose to die for any whomsoever. And thou indeed carest for one woman, but he for the Churches throughout the world. For he saith, *My care of all the Churches.* <sup>c. 11, 28.</sup> How long then, O man, dost thou trifle, comparing thyself with Paul; and wilt not cease from this thy much meanness of spirit? For it behoveth to weep, not when we are in poverty, but when we sin; for this is worthy of lamentations, as all the other things are of ridicule even. 'But,' he saith, 'this is not all that grieves me; but that also such an one is in power, whilst I am unhonoured and outcast.' And what is this? for the blessed Paul too appeared to the many to be unhonoured, and an outcast. 'But,' saith he, 'he was Paul.' Plainly then not the nature of the things, but thy feebleness of spirit causeth thy desponding. Lament not therefore thy poverty, but thyself who art so minded; yea rather, lament not thyself, but reform thee; and seek not for money, but pursue that which maketh men of more cheerful countenance than thousands of money, philosophy and virtue. For where indeed these are, there is no harm in poverty; and where these are not, there is no good in money. For tell me, what good is it when men are rich indeed, but have beggarly souls? Thou dost not bewail thyself, so much as that rich man himself, because he hath not the wealth of all. And if he doth not weep as thou dost, yet lay open his conscience, and thou wilt see his wailings and lamentations.

Wilt thou that I shew thee thine own riches; that thou mayest cease to count them happy that are rich in money? Seest thou this heaven here, how beautiful, how vast it is, how it is placed on high? This beauty he enjoyeth not more than thou, nor is it in his power to thrust thee aside, and make it all his own: for as it was made for him, so was it too for thee. What too the sun, this bright and far

HOMIL. shining star, and that gladdeneth our eyes, is not this too  
 XII. set out<sup>1</sup> common to all? and do not all enjoy it equally, both  
<sup>1</sup> *πρόκει-  
ται* poor and rich? And the wreath of the stars, and the orb of  
 the moon, are they not left equally to all? Yea, rather, if I  
 must speak somewhat marvellous, we poor enjoy these, more  
 than they. For they indeed being for the most part steeped  
 in drunkenness, and passing their time in revellings, and  
 deep sleep, do not even perceive these things, being always  
<sup>2</sup> *ὑπὸ σκῆ-  
φῶ* under cover<sup>2</sup> and reared in the shade<sup>3</sup>: but the poor do more  
<sup>3</sup> *σκιᾶ-  
πρᾶφρῶ-  
μενοι* than any enjoy the luxury of these elements. And further, if  
 thou wilt look into the air which is every where diffused,  
 thou wilt see the poor man enjoying it in greater both  
 freshness and abundance. For wayfarers and husbandmen  
 enjoy these luxuries more than the inhabitants of the city;  
 and again, of those same inhabitants of the city, the handi-  
 craftsmen more than those who are drunken all the day.  
 What too of the earth, is not this left common to all? ‘No,’  
 he saith. How sayest thou so? tell me. ‘Because the rich  
 man, both in the city, having gotten himself several plethra,  
 raises up long fences round them; and if in the country, cuts  
 off for himself many portions.’ What then? When he cuts  
 them off, does he alone enjoy them? By no means, though  
 he should contend for it ever so earnestly. For the produce  
 he is compelled to distribute amongst all, and for thee he  
 cultivates corn, and wine, and oil, and is made to minister  
 unto thee in all. And those long fences and buildings, after  
 his untold expense and his toils and drudgery, he is pre-  
 paring for thy use, receiving from thee only a small piece of  
 silver for so great a service. And in baths, and every where,  
 one may see the same thing obtaining; the rich put to  
 expense in money and in cares and labours; and the poor for  
 a few oboli, reaping the benefit of it all with perfect ease.  
 And his enjoyment of the earth is no more than thine; for  
 sure he filleth not ten stomachs, and thou fillest one. ‘But  
 he partaketh of costlier meats?’ Truly, this is no mighty  
 superiority; howbeit, even here, we shall find thee to have the  
 advantage. For this costliness is therefore thought by thee  
 a matter of envy, because the pleasure with it is greater.  
 Yet this is greater in the poor man’s case; yet not pleasure  
 only, but health also; and in this alone is the advantage

with the rich, that he maketh his constitution feebler, and collects more abundant fountains of disease. For the poor man's diet is all ordered according to nature, but his, through its excess, resulteth in corruption and disease. 2 COR.  
VI. 10.

[6.] But if ye will, let us also look at this same thing (6.) in an example. For if it were requisite to light a furnace, and then one man were to throw in silken garments and fine linens, many and numberless, and so kindle it; and another logs of oak and pine, what advantage would this man have over that? None, but even disadvantage. But what? (for there is nothing to prevent our turning the same illustration round after another manner,) if one were to throw in logs, and another were to light his fire under bodies, by which furnace wouldest thou like to stand, that with the logs, or that with the bodies? Very plainly that with the logs. For that burns naturally, and is a pleasant spectacle to the beholders: whilst this with the steam, and juices, and smoke, and the stench of the bones would drive every one away. Didst thou shudder at the hearing, and loathe that furnace? Like it are the bellies of the rich. For in them one would find more rottenness than in that furnace, and stinking vapours, and filthy humours, because that, all over and in every part, crudities abound in consequence of their surfeiting. For the natural heat not sufficing for the digestion of the whole, but being smothered under them, they lie smoking above, and the unpleasantness produced is great. To what then should one compare those stomachs of theirs? Yet do not be offended at what I say, but if I do not say true things, refute me. To what then should one compare them? for even what has been said is not enough to shew their wretched plight. I have found another resemblance yet. What then is it? As in the sewers where there is accumulation of refuse, of dung, hay, stubble, stones, clay, frequent stoppages occur; and then the stream of filth overflows at top: so also it happeneth with the stomachs of those people. For these being stopped up below, the greater part of these villainous streams spurts up above. But not so with the poor, but like those fountains which well forth pure streams, and water gardens and pleasure grounds<sup>1</sup>, so also are their<sup>1</sup> παρὰ-  
δίσσους. stomachs pure from such-like superfluities. But not such

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XII. are the stomachs of the rich, or rather of the luxurious; but they are filled with humours, phlegm, bile, corrupted blood, putrid rheums, and other such-like matters. Wherefore no one, if he lives always in luxury, can bear it even for a short time; but his life will be spent in continual sicknesses. Wherefore I would gladly ask them, for what end are meats given? that we may be destroyed, or be nourished? that we may be diseased, or be strong? that we may be healthful, or be sickly? Very plainly, for nourishment, and health, and strength. Wherefore then do ye abuse them to the contrary, by their means creating unto the body disease and sickness? But not so the poor man; on the contrary, by his plain diet he purchases to himself health, and vigour, and strength. Weep not then on account of poverty, the mother of health, but even exult in it; and if thou wouldest be rich, despise riches. For this, not the having money, but the not wanting to have it, is truly affluence. If we can achieve this, we shall both be here more affluent than all that are rich, and there shall obtain the good things to come, whereunto may all we attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and ever, and world without end. Amen.



## H O M I L Y    XIII.

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2 COR. vi. 11, 12.

*O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged, ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels.*

HAVING detailed his own temptations and afflictions, for *in patience*, saith he, *in afflictions, in necessities, in dis-* v. 4, 5. *tresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tossings to and fro, in labours, in watchings*; and having shewn that the thing was a great good, for *as sorrowful*, saith he, *yet always* v. 10. *rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things*; and having called those things *armour*, for *as chastened*, saith he, *and not killed*: and having hereby represented God's abundant care and power, for he saith, *that the excellency of the power* c. 4, 7. *might be of God, and not of us*; and having recounted his labours, for he saith, *we always bear about His dying*; and that this is a clear demonstration of the Resurrection, for he says, *that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in* c. 4, 10. *our mortal flesh*; and of what things he was made partaker; and with what had been entrusted, for, *we are ambassadors* c. 5, 20. *for Christ*, saith he, *as though God did beseech you by us*; and of what things he is a minister, namely, *not of the* c. 3, 6. *letter, but of the Spirit*; and that he was not only entitled to reverence on this account, but also for his trials, for, *Thanks be to God*, saith he, *which always causeth us to triumph*: he purposeth now also to rebuke them, as not being too well minded towards himself. But though purposing

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he does not immediately come upon this, but having first spoken of the love which he had displayed towards them, he then enters also upon his discussion of these things. For if even from his own good deeds, he that rebuketh be entitled to reverence; yet still, when he also displayeth the love, which he bears towards those who are censured, he maketh his speech less offensive. Therefore the Apostle also having stepped out of the subject of his own trials, and toils, and contests, passes on into speaking of his love, and in this way toucheth them to the quick. What then are the indications of his love? *O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you.* And what kind of sign of love is this? or what meaning even have the words at all? ‘We cannot endure,’ he says, ‘to be silent towards you, but are always desiring and longing to speak to, and converse with you;’ which is the wont of those who love. For what infolding in the arms is to the body, that is interchange of language to the soul. And along with this he implies another thing also. Of what kind then is this? That ‘we discourse unto you on all points with freedom, as unto persons beloved, and suppressing nothing, reserving nothing.’ For since afterwards he proposes to rebuke, he asks forgiveness, using the rebuking them with freedom, as itself a proof of his loving them exceedingly. Moreover the addition of their name is a mark of great love, and warmth, and affection; for we are accustomed to be repeating continually the bare names of those we love.

*Our heart is enlarged.* For as that which warmth is wont to dilate; so also to enlarge is the work of love. For virtue is warm and fervent. This both opened the mouth of Paul, and enlarged his heart. For, ‘neither do I love with the mouth only,’ saith he, ‘but I have also a heart in unison. Therefore I speak with openness, with my whole mouth, with my whole mind.’ For nothing is wider than was Paul’s heart, which loved all the faithful with all the vehemence that one might bear towards the object of his affection; this his love not being divided and therefore weakened, but abiding in full entireness with each. And what marvel that this was so in the case of the faithful, seeing that even in that of the unfaithful, the heart of Paul embraced the whole world? Therefore he said not, ‘I love you,’ but with

more emphasis, *Our mouth is open, our heart is enlarged*, <sup>2 COR.</sup> <sup>VI. 12.</sup> we have you all within it, and not this merely, but with much largeness of room<sup>1</sup>. For he that is beloved, walketh with great unrestraint within the heart of him that loveth. Wherefore he saith, *Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels*. And this reproof, see it administered with forbearance, as is the wont of such as love exceedingly. He did not say, ‘ye do not love us,’ but, ‘not in the same measure,’ for he does not wish to touch them too sensibly. And indeed every where one may see, how he is burnt up with love of the faithful, by selecting words out of every Epistle. For to the Romans he saith, *I long to see you; and, often-* <sup>Rom. 1,</sup> <sup>11. 13.</sup> *times I have purposed to come unto you; and, If by any* <sup>10.</sup> *means now at length I might have a prosperous journey to come unto you*. And to the Galatians, he says, *My little* <sup>Gal. 4,</sup> <sup>19.</sup> *children, of whom I travail in birth again*. To the Ephesians again, *For this cause I bow my knees for you*. And to the Ephes. <sup>Philippians</sup> <sup>a</sup>, *For what is my hope, or joy, or crown of re-* <sup>3, 14.</sup> *joicing? are not even ye?* and he said that he bare them <sup>Philipp.</sup> <sup>1, 7.</sup> about in his heart, and <sup>2</sup> in his bonds. And to the Colos- <sup>2</sup> <sup>Or,</sup> <sup>Coloss.</sup> <sup>2, 1. 2.</sup> *sians, But I would that ye knew what great conflict I have* <sup>‘even’</sup> *for you, and for as many as have not seen my face in* <sup>2, 1. 2.</sup> *the flesh; that your hearts might be comforted*. And to the Thessalonians, *Even as a nurse cherisheth her children, so* <sup>1 Thess.</sup> <sup>2, 7. 8.</sup> *being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have* *imparted unto you, not the Gospel only, but also our own souls*. And to Timothy, *Being mindful of thy tears, that I* <sup>2 Tim.</sup> *might be filled with joy*. And to Titus, *To my beloved* <sup>1</sup> <sup>1. 4.</sup> *son;* <sup>Tit. 1, 4.</sup> and to Philemon, in like manner. And to the Hebrews too, (2.) he writes many other such-like things, and ceaseth not to beseech them, and say, *A little while, and he that shall* <sup>1.</sup> <sup>Heb. 10,</sup> *come will come, and will not tarry:* just like a mother to <sup>37.</sup> her pettish<sup>3</sup> children. And to themselves<sup>4</sup> he says, *Ye are* <sup>3</sup> <sup>δυσχε-</sup> <sup>ἐαίνοντες</sup> <sup>1</sup> <sup>the</sup> *not straitened in us*. But he does not say only, that he loves, but also that he is beloved by them, in order that hereby also he may the rather win them. And indeed testifying <sup>Corin-</sup> <sup>thians</sup> to this in them, he says, Titus came and *told us your earnest* <sup>2 Cor.</sup> <sup>7, 7.</sup>

<sup>a</sup> This passage is not in the Epistle to the Philippians, but in the first Epistle to the Thessalonians ii. 19, but the same expressions occur in Phil. iv. 1.

<sup>b</sup> So Chrys.; Rec. text, “own son.”

HOMIL. desire, your mourning, your fervent mind. And to the  
 XIII. Galatians, *If it had been possible, ye would have plucked out*  
 Gal. 4, 15. *your own eyes, and have given them to me.* And to the Thes-  
 1 Thess. salonians, *What manner of entering in we had unto you.*  
 1, 9. And to Timothy also, *Being mindful of thy tears, that I may*  
 2 Tim. 1, 4. *be filled with joy.* And also throughout his Epistles one may  
 find him bearing this testimony to the disciples, both that  
 he loved, and that he is loved, not however equally. And  
 2 Cor. here he saith, *Though the more abundantly I love you, the*  
 12, 15. *less I be loved.* This, however, is near the end; but at present  
 more vehemently, *Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are*  
*straitened in your own bowels.* ‘You receive one,’ he says,  
 ‘but I a whole city, and so great a population.’ And he said  
 not, ‘ye do not receive us,’ but, ‘ye are straitened;’ implying  
 indeed the same thing, but with forbearance, and without  
 touching them too deeply.

Ver. 13. *Now for a recompense in the same, (I speak as*  
*unto my children,) be ye also enlarged.*

And yet it is not an equal return, first to be loved, afterwards  
 to love. For even if one were to contribute that which is equal  
 in amount, he is inferior, in that he comes to it second. ‘But  
 nevertheless I am not going to reckon strictly<sup>1</sup>,’ saith he,  
<sup>1</sup> οὐδὲν ἀκριβοῦς- and if ye, after having received the first advances<sup>2</sup> from me  
 γούμαι <sup>2</sup> τὰς do but shew forth the same amount, I am well-pleased and  
 ἀεχῆς contented.’ Then to shew that to do this was even a debt,  
 and that what he said was void of flattery, he saith, *I*  
*speak as unto my children.* What meaneth, *as unto my*  
*children?* ‘I ask no great thing, if being your father I wish  
 to be loved by you.’ And see wisdom and moderation of  
 mind. He mentions not here his dangers on their behalf,  
 and his labours, and his deaths, although he had many  
 things to tell of: (so free from pride is he!) but his love: and  
 on this account he claims to be loved; ‘because,’ saith he,  
 ‘I was your father, because I exceedingly burn for you,’ [for]  
 it is often especially offensive to the person beloved, when a  
 man sets forth his benefits to him; for he seems to reproach.  
 Wherefore Paul doth not this; but, ‘like children, love your  
 father,’ saith he, which rather proceeds from instinct<sup>3</sup>; and  
 is the due of every father. Then that he may not seem to  
 speak these things for his own sake, he shews that it is

for their advantage even that he invites this love from them. <sup>2</sup> COR. VI. 14.  
And therefore he added,

Ver. 14. *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.*

He said not, 'Intermix not with unbelievers,' but rather dealing sharply with<sup>1</sup> them, as transgressing what was right, <sup>1</sup> καβαπ-τόμιμος  
'Suffer not yourselves to decline,' saith he,

*For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?* Here in what follows he institutes a comparison, not between his own love and theirs who corrupt them, but between their nobleness and the others' dishonour. For thus his discourse became both more dignified, and more befitting himself, and would the rather win them. Just as if one should say to a son that despised his parents, and gave himself up to vicious persons, 'What art thou doing, child? Dost thou despise thy father, and prefer vicious men, filled with ten thousand vices? Knowest thou not how much better and more respectable thou art than they?' For so he detaches him more [readily] from their society, than if he should express admiration of his father. For were he to say indeed, 'Knowest thou not how much thy father is better than they?' he will not produce so much effect; but if, leaving mention of his father, he prefer himself before them, saying, 'Knowest thou not who thou art, and what they are? Dost thou not bear in mind thine own high birth, and gentle<sup>2</sup> blood, and <sup>2</sup> ἐλευθε-ρίαν. their infamy? For what communion hast thou with them, those thieves, those adulterers, those impostors?' by elevating him with these praises of himself, he will quickly prepare him to break off from them. For the former address indeed, he will not entertain with overmuch acceptance, because the preference of his father is an accusation of himself, when he is shewn to be not only grieving a father, but such a father; but in this case he will have no such feeling. For none would choose not to be praised, and thereby, therefore, along with these praises of him that hears, the rebuke becometh easy of digestion. For the listener is softened, and is filled with high thoughts, and disdains<sup>3</sup> the society of those <sup>3</sup> διαπύσι persons.

But not this only is the point to be admired in him, that thus he prosecuted his comparison, but that he imagined another thing also, greater and more astounding; in the first



HOMIL. XIII. place, prosecuting his speech in the form of interrogation, which is proper to things that are clear and admitted, and then dilating it by the thick succession and multitude of his terms. For he employs not one or two or three only, but several. Add to this, that instead of the persons, he employs the names of the things, and he delineates here high virtue, and there extreme vice; and shews the difference between them to be great and infinite, so as not even to need demonstration. *For what fellowship, saith he, hath righteousness with unrighteousness?*

*And what communion hath light with darkness? v. 15, 16. And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what portion<sup>1</sup> hath he that believeth with an infidel? Or what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?*

<sup>1</sup> E. V.  
part

(3.) Seest thou how he uses the bare names, and how adequately to his purpose of dissuasion. For he did not say, ‘neglect of righteousness,’ [but] which was stronger [*unrighteousness<sup>c</sup>*]; nor did he say those who are of the light, and those who are of the darkness; but he uses the opposites themselves, which can not admit of their opposites, ‘light and darkness.’ Nor said he those who are of Christ, with those who are of the devil; but, which was far wider apart, Christ and Belial, so calling that apostate one, in the Hebrew tongue. *Or what portion hath he that believeth with an infidel?* Here, at length, that he may not seem simply to be going through a censure of vice, and an encomium of virtue, he mentions persons also, without particularizing. And he said not, ‘communion,’ but spoke of the rewards, using the term *portion*. *What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?*

<sup>2</sup> παρανομία  
[ἀνομία]

*For ye are the temple of the living God.* Now what he says is this. Neither hath your King aught in common with him, *for what concord hath Christ with Belial?* nor have the things [aught in common], *for what fellowship hath light with darkness?* Therefore, neither should ye. And first he mentions their king, and then themselves; by this separating them most effectually. Then having said, *the temple of God with idols*, and having declared, *For ye are the temple of the living God*, he is necessitated to subjoin also the testimony

<sup>c</sup> The two words in brackets are not found in the text, but seem required by the context.

of this, to shew that the thing is no flattery. For he that praises, except he also exhibit proof, even appears to flatter. <sup>2 COR. VII. 1.</sup> What then is his testimony? For,

*I will dwell in them, saith he, and walk in them. I will dwell in, as in temples, and walk in them, signifying the more abundant affection<sup>1</sup> towards them.*

<sup>1</sup> σκεψιν

*And they shall be to me a people, and I will be to them a God<sup>b</sup>.* ‘What?’ saith he, ‘Dost thou bear God within thee, and runnest unto them? God, That hath nothing in common with them? And in what can this deserve forgiveness? Bear in mind Who walketh, Who dwelleth, in thee.’

Ver. 17. *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, saith the Lord.*

And He said not, ‘Do not unclean things;’ but, requiring greater strictness, ‘do not even touch,’ saith he, ‘nor go near them.’ But what is filthiness of the flesh? Adultery, fornication, lasciviousness of every kind. And what of the soul? Unclean thoughts, as gazing with unchaste eyes, malice, deceits, and whatsoever such things there be. He wishes then that they should be clean in both. Seest thou how great the prize? To be delivered from what is evil, to be made one with God. Hear also what follows.

Ver. 18. *And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord.*

Seest thou how from the beginning the Prophet fore-announceth our present high birth, the Regeneration by grace?

Chap. vii. ver. 1. *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved.*

What promises? That we should be temples of God, sons and daughters, have Him indwelling, and walking in us, be His people, have Him for our God and Father.

*Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.*

Let us neither touch unclean things, for this is cleansing of the flesh; nor things which defile the soul, for this is [cleansing] of the spirit. Yet he is not content with this only, but he adds also,

<sup>b</sup> The Received text inverts the order of the two clauses.

HOMIL.  
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*Perfecting holiness in the fear of God.* For not to touch the unclean thing, doth not make clean, but there needeth something else besides to our becoming holy; earnestness, heedfulness, piety. And he well said, *In the fear of God.* For it is possible to perfect chasteness, not in the fear of God, but for vainglory. And along with this, he implies yet another thing, by saying, *In the fear of God*; the manner, namely, whereafter holiness may be perfected. For if lust be even an imperious thing, still, if thou occupy its territory with <sup>1</sup> the fear of God, thou hast stayed its freunzy.

<sup>1</sup> ἐπιτη-  
χίση;

[4.] Now by holiness here, he means not chastity alone, but the freedom from every kind of sin, for he is holy that is pure. Now one will become pure, not if he be free from fornication only, but if from covetousness also, and envy, and <sup>2</sup> pride<sup>2</sup>, and vainglory, yea especially from vainglory, which in every thing indeed it behoveth to avoid, but much more in almsgiving; since neither will it be almsgiving, if it have this distemper, but display and cruelty. For when thou dost

<sup>3</sup> ἐκπεμ-  
τεύων.

<sup>4</sup> παρ-  
δειγμά-  
τισας

it not out of mercy, but from parade<sup>6</sup>, such deed is not only no alms, but even an insult; for thou hast put thy brother to open shame<sup>4</sup>. Not then the giving money, but the giving it out of mercy, is almsgiving. For people too at the theatres give, both to prostitute boys, and to others who are on the stage; but such a deed is not almsgiving. And they too give that abuse the persons of prostitute women; but this is <sup>5</sup> not lovingkindness, but insolent treatment<sup>5</sup>. Like this is the

<sup>5</sup> παροργί-  
α

vainglorious also. For just as he that abuseth the person of the harlot, pays her a price for that abuse of her; so too dost thou demand a price of him that receiveth of thee, thine insult of him, and thine investing him as well as thyself with an evil notoriety. And besides this, the loss is unspeakable. For just as a wild beast, and a mad dog springing upon us might, so doth this ill disease and this inhumanity make prey of our good things. For inhumanity and cruelty such a course is; yea, rather more grievous even than this. For the cruel indeed would not give to him that asked: but thou dost more than this; thou hinderest those that wish to give. For when thou paradedst thy giving, thou hast both <sup>6</sup> lowered the reputation of the receiver, and hast pulled back<sup>6</sup> him that was about to give, if he be of a careless mind. For

<sup>6</sup> ἀνελά-  
τισας

he will not give to him thenceforth, on the ground of his having already received, and not being in such want; yea he will often accuse him even, if, after having received, he should draw near to beg, and think him impudent. What sort of almsgiving then is this, when thou both shamest thyself and him that receiveth; and also in two ways Him that enjoined it: both because while having Him for a spectator of thine alms, thou seekest the eyes of thy fellow-servants besides Him, and because thou transgressest the law laid down by Him forbidding these things? (4.)

I could have wished to have carried this out into those other subjects as well, both fasting and prayer, and to have shewn in how many respects vainglory is injurious there also; but I remember, that in the discourse before this, I left unfinished a certain necessary point. What was the point? I was saying, that the poor have the advantage of the rich in the things of this life, when I discoursed concerning health and pleasure; and this was shewn indistinctly. Come then, to-day let us shew this, that not in the things of this life only, but also in those that are higher, the advantage is with them. For what leadeth unto a kingdom, riches or poverty? Let us hear the Lord Himself of the heavens saying of those, that *it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven*: but of the poor the contrary, *If thou wilt be perfect, sell that thou hast, and give to the poor; and come, follow Me; and thou shalt have treasure in heaven*. But if ye will, let us see what is said on either side. *Strait and narrow is the way*, He saith, *which leadeth unto life*. Which then treadeth the narrow way, he that is in luxury, or that is in poverty; that is independent, or that carrieth ten thousand burdens; the lax<sup>1</sup> and dissolute, or the thoughtful and anxious? But<sup>1</sup> what need of these arguments, when it is best to betake one's self to the persons themselves. Lazarus was poor, yea very poor; and he that passed him by as he lay at his gateway was rich. Which then entered into the kingdom, and was in delights in Abraham's bosom? and which of them was scorched, with not even a drop at his command? But, saith one, 'both many poor will be lost, and [many] rich will

2 COR.  
VII. 1.

Mat. 19,  
24.

Mat. 19,  
21.

Matt. 7,  
14.

χαῖνος.

HOMIL. enjoy those unspeakable goods.' Nay rather, one may see  
 XIII. the contrary, few rich saved, but of the poor far more. For, consider, making accurate measure of the hindrances of riches, and the defects of poverty, (or rather, neither of riches nor of poverty are they, but each of those who have riches or poverty; howbeit,) let us at least see which is the more available weapon. What defect then doth poverty seem to possess? Lying. And what, wealth? Pride, the mother of evils; which also made the devil a devil, who was not such before. Again, *the love of money is the root of all evils*. Which then stands near this root, the rich man, or the poor? Is it not very plainly the rich? For the more things any one surrounds himself with, he desires so much the more. Vainglory again damages tens of thousands of good deeds, and near this too again the rich man hath his dwelling<sup>1</sup>.  
 1 Tim. 6, 10. "But," saith one, "thou mentionest not the [evils] of the poor man, his affliction, his straits. Nay, but this is both common to the rich, and is his more than the poor man's; so that those indeed which appear to be evils of poverty are common to either: whilst those of riches are riches' only. 'But what,' saith one, 'when for want of necessities the poor man committeth many horrible things?' But no poor man, no, not one, committeth as many horrible things from want, as do the rich for the sake of surrounding themselves with more, and of not losing what stores they have<sup>2</sup>. For the poor man doth not so eagerly desire necessities, as the rich doth superfluities; nor again has he as much strength to put wickedness in practice, as the other hath power. If then the rich man is both more willing and able, it is quite plain that he will rather commit such, and more of them. Nor is the poor man so much afraid in respect of hunger, as the rich trembleth and is anxious in respect of the loss of what he has, and because he has not yet gotten all men's possessions. Since then he is near both to vainglory and to arrogance, and to love of money, the root of all evils, what hope of salvation shall he have, except he display much wisdom? And how shall he walk the narrow way? Let us not therefore carry about the notions of the many, but examine into the facts. For how is it not absurd, that in respect to money, indeed, we do not trust to others, but refer this to figures and calcu-

<sup>1</sup> ἡ σκηνή  
 τῆς

<sup>2</sup> τὰ ἑνδο



lation; but in calculating upon facts, we are lightly drawn <sup>2</sup> *Cor.*  
aside by the notions of others; and that too, though we <sup>VII. 1.</sup>  
possess an exact balance<sup>1</sup>, and square<sup>2</sup> and rule<sup>3</sup> for all <sup>1</sup> *ζυγόν.*  
things, the declaration of the divine laws? Wherefore <sup>2</sup> *γνώμονα*  
<sup>3</sup> *κανόνα.*  
I exhort and entreat you all, disregard what this man and  
that man thinks about these things, and inquire from the  
Scriptures all these things; and having learnt what are the true  
riches, let us pursue after them, that we may obtain also the  
eternal good things; which may we all obtain, through the  
grace and love toward men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with  
Whom, to the Father and the Holy Spirit, be glory, might,  
and honour, now and ever, and world without end. Amen.

*How winningly Paul asks for love. Irony in, 'We have not wronged.'*

## H O M I L Y    X I V .

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2 COR. vii. 2, 3.

*Receive us: we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man. I speak not this to condemn you; for I have said before, as I have also declared above<sup>a</sup>, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you.*

AGAIN he raiseth the discourse about love, mitigating the harshness of his rebuke. For since he had convicted and reproached them as being beloved indeed, yet not loving in an equal degree; but breaking away from his love and mixing themselves up with other pestilent fellows; again he softens down the vehemence of his rebuke, saying, *Receive us*, that is, *love us*; and prays to receive a favour involving no burden, and advantaging them that confer, above them that receive it. And he said not, 'love,' but with a stronger appeal to their pity<sup>1</sup>, *Receive*. 'Who hath expelled us?' saith he: 'Who hath cast us out of your hearts? How come we to be straitened in you?' for since he said above, *Ye are straitened in your bowels*; here declaring it more clearly, he said, *Receive us*<sup>2</sup>: in this way also again winning them to himself. For nothing doth so produce love as for the beloved to know, that he that loveth him, exceedingly desireth his love.

*We have wronged no man.* See how again he does not mention the benefits [done by him], but frameth his speech in another way, so as to be both less offensive, and more cutting<sup>3</sup>. And at the same time he also alludes to the false apostles, saying, *We have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.*

<sup>a</sup> This clause, inserted by St. Chrysostom, is not found in the Received text.

<sup>1</sup> ἐλεεινότητος

<sup>2</sup> Or, Contain us.

<sup>3</sup> πλεονεκτείνον

What is *we have corrupted*? That is, we have deceived <sup>2 COR. VII. 3.</sup> no man; as he says elsewhere also. *Lest by any means, as the serpent deceived<sup>1</sup> Eve, so your minds should be corrupted.* <sup>2 Cor. 11, 3.</sup>

*We have defrauded no man*; we have plundered, have plotted against no man. And he for the present forbears to say, ‘we have benefitted you in such and such ways;’ but framing his language so as more to shame them, *We have wronged no man*, he says; as much as saying, ‘Even had we in no wise benefitted you, not even so ought ye to turn away from us; for ye have nothing to lay to our charge, either small or great.’ Then, for he felt the heaviness of his rebuke, he tempers it again. And he was neither silent altogether, for so he would not have aroused them; nor yet did he let the harshness of his language go unmodified, for so he would have wounded them too much. And what says he?

Ver. 3. *I speak not this to condemn you.*

How is this evident? *For I have said before*, he adds, *that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you.* This is the greatest affection, when even though treated with contempt, he chooseth both to die and live with them. ‘For neither are ye merely in our hearts,’ he says, ‘but in such sort as I said. For it is possible both to love, and to shun dangers, but we do not thus.’ And behold here also wisdom unspeakable. For he spake not of what had in time past been done for them, that he might not seem to be again reproaching them, but he promiseth for the future. ‘For should it chance,’ saith he, ‘that danger should invade, for your sakes I am ready to suffer every thing; and neither death nor life seemeth aught to me in itself, but in whichever ye be, that is to me more preferable, both death than life, and life than death.’

Howbeit, dying indeed is manifestly a proof of love; but living, who is there that would not choose, even of those who are not friends? Why then does the Apostle mention it as something great? Because it is even exceeding great. For numbers indeed sympathize with their friends when they are in misfortune, but when they are in honour rejoice not with, but envy, them. ‘But not so we; but whether ye be in calamity, we are not afraid to share your ill fortune; or

<sup>1</sup> be-  
guiled,  
E. V.

HOMIL. whether ye be prosperous, we are not wounded with that  
XIV. envy.'

[2.] Then after he had continually repeated these things, saying, *Ye are not straitened in us*; and, *Ye are straitened in your own bowels*; and, *Receive us*; and, *Be ye also enlarged*; and, *We have wronged no man*; and all these things seemed to be a condemnation of them: observe how he also in another manner alleviates this severity by saying, *Great is my boldness of speech towards you*. 'Therefore I venture upon such things,' he says, 'not to condemn you by what I say, but out of my great boldness of speech,' which even before signifying, he said, *Great is my glorying of you*. 'For think not indeed,' he saith, 'that because I thus speak, I speak as though I had condemned you altogether; (for I am exceedingly proud of, and glory in, you;) but both out of tender concern, and a desire that you should make greater increase unto virtue.' And so he said to the Hebrews also

Heb. 6,  
9—11.

after much rebuke; *But we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak: and we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end*. So indeed here also, *Great is my glorying of you*. 'We glory to others of you,' he says. Seest thou what genuine comfort he has given? 'And,' he saith, 'I do not simply glory, but also, greatly.' Accordingly he added these words; *I am filled with the comfort*. What comfort? 'That coming from you; because that ye, having been reformed, comforted me by your conduct.' This is the test of one that loveth, both to complain of not being loved, and to fear lest he should inflict pain by complaining immoderately. Therefore he says, *I am*

- (2.) *filled with the comfort, I superabound in joy*. 'But these expressions,' saith one, 'seem to contradict the former.' They do not do so, however, but are even exceedingly in harmony with them. For these procure for the former a favourable reception; and the praise which they convey, makes the benefit of those rebukes more genuine, by quietly abstracting what was painful in them. Wherefore he uses these expressions, but with great genuineness and earnestness<sup>1</sup>. For he did not say, 'I am filled with joy;' but, *I abound*; or rather, not *abound* either, but *superabound*;

<sup>1</sup> φιλοτιμως.

in this way also again shewing his yearning, that even though <sup>2 COR. VII.5,6.</sup> he be so loved, as to rejoice and exult, he does not yet think himself loved as he ought to be loved, nor to have received full payment; so insatiable was he, out of his exceeding love of them. For the joy it brings, to be loved in any degree by those one passionately loves, is great, by reason of our loving them exceedingly. So that this again was a proof of his affection. And of the comfort indeed, he saith, *I am filled*; 'I have received what was owing to me;' but of the joy, *I superabound*; that is, 'I was desponding about you; but ye have sufficiently excused yourselves, and supplied comfort: for ye have not only removed the ground of my sorrow, but have even increased joy.' Then shewing its greatness, he not only by this declares it, by saying, *I superabound in joy*, but also by adding, *in all our tribulation*. 'For so great was the delight arising to us on your account, that it was not even dimmed by so great tribulation, but through the excess of its own greatness it overcame the sorrows that had hold of us, and suffered us not to feel the sense of them.'

Ver. 5. *For when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest.*

For since he said, *our tribulation*; he both explains what nature of tribulation, and magnifies it by his words, in order to shew, that the consolation and joy received from them <sup>1 i.e. the Corinthians.</sup> were great, seeing it had repelled so great a sorrow.

*But we were troubled on every side.*

How on every side? *Without, were fightings*, from the unbelievers; *within, were fears*; because of the weak among the believers, lest they should be drawn aside. For not amongst the Corinthians only did these things happen, but elsewhere also.

Ver. 6. *Neretheless, He that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by<sup>2</sup> the coming of Titus.*

For since he had testified great things of them in what he said, that he may not seem to be flattering them, he cites as witness Titus the brother<sup>3</sup>, who had come from them to Paul <sup>2 i.e. R.T. i.e. St.C.</sup> after the first Epistle, to declare unto him the particulars of their amendment. But consider, I pray you, how in every place he maketh a great matter of the coming of Titus. <sup>3 Or 'his brother.'</sup>



HOMIL. For he saith also before, *Furthermore when I came to Troas to preach the Gospel, I had no rest in my spirit*  
 XIV.  
 c. 4, 2,  
 12. 13. *because I found not Titus my brother; and in this place again, we were comforted, he saith, at the coming of Titus.*

For he is desirous also of establishing the man in their confidence, and of making him exceedingly dear to them. And observe how he provides for both these things. For by saying on the one hand, *I had no rest in my spirit*, he sheweth the greatness of his virtue; and by saying on the other, that, in our tribulation, his coming sufficed unto comfort; yet *not by his coming only, but for the consolation*

<sup>1</sup> *wherewith he was comforted in you*, he endeareth<sup>1</sup> the man unto the Corinthians. For nothing doth so produce and cement friendships as the saying something sound and favourable of any one. And such he testifies Titus did; when he says, that ‘by his coming he hath given us wings with pleasure; such things did he report of you. On this ground his coming made us glad. For we were delighted not *only by his coming, but also for the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you.* And how was he comforted? By your virtue, by your good deeds.’ Wherefore also he adds,

*When he told us your earnest desires, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me.* ‘These things made him glad,’ he says, ‘these things comforted him.’ Seest thou how he shews that he also is an earnest lover of theirs, seeing he considers their good report as a consolation to himself; and when he was come, gloried, as though on account of his own good things, unto Paul.

And observe with what warmth of expression he reporteth these things, *Your earnest desire, your mourning, your*  
<sup>2</sup> *fervent mind.* For it was likely<sup>2</sup> that they would mourn and grieve why the blessed Paul was so much displeased, why he had kept away from them so long. And therefore he did not say simply tears, but *mourning*; nor desire, but *earnest desire*; nor anger, but *fervent mind*; and again *fervent mind toward him*, both which they displayed about him that had committed fornication, and about those who were accusing him. ‘For,’ saith he, ‘ye were inflamed and blazed out on receiving my letters.’ On these accounts he abounds in joy, on these accounts he is filled with consolation, because he made them

<sup>2</sup> or ‘natural’

feel. It seems to me, however, that these things are said not only to soften what has gone before, but also in encouragement of those who had acted in these things virtuously. For although I suppose that some were obnoxious to those former accusations, and unworthy of these praises; still, nevertheless, he doth not distinguish them, but makes both the praises and the accusations common, leaving it to the conscience of his hearers to select that which belongs to them. For so both the one would be void of offence, and the other lead them on to much fervour of mind.

[4.] Such also now should be the feelings of those who are reprehended; thus should they lament and mourn; thus yearn after their teachers; thus, more than fathers, miss them. For by those indeed living cometh, but by these good living. Thus ought they to bear the rebukes of their fathers, thus to sympathize with those that rule over them, on account of those that sin. For it does not rest all with them, but with you also. For if he that hath sinned perceives, that he hath been rebuked indeed by his father, but hath been flattered by his brethren; he becometh more easy of mind. But when the father rebukes, be thou too angry as well, whether as concerned for thy brother, or as joining in thy father's indignation; only be the earnestness thou shewest great; and mourn, not that he has been rebuked, but that he sinned. But if I build up, and thou pull down, what profit have we had but labour? Yea rather, the case of thy loss stops not here, but thou bringest also punishment on thyself. For he that hindereth the wound from being healed, is punished not less than he that inflicted it, but even more. For it is not an equal offence to wound, and to hinder that which is wounded from being healed; for this indeed necessarily gendereth death, but that not necessarily. Now I have spoken thus to you; that ye may join in the anger of your rulers, whenever they are indignant justly; that when ye see any one rebuked, ye may all shun him, more than the teacher. Let him that hath offended fear you, more than his rulers. For if he is afraid of his teacher only, he will readily sin: but if he have to dread so many eyes, so many tongues, he will be in greater security. For as, if we do not thus act, we shall suffer the extremest punishment; so, if we perform these

2 COR.  
VII. 7.

Eccles.  
34, 23.

HOMIL.  
XIV.

things, we shall become partakers of the gain that accrues from his reformation. Thus then let us act; and if any one shall say, 'be humane towards thy brother,' this is a Christian's duty; let him be taught, that he is humane who is angry [with him], not he who sets him at ease<sup>a</sup> prematurely, and alloweth him not even to come to a sense of his transgression. For which, tell me, pities the man in a fever and labouring under delirium, he that lays him on his bed, and binds him down, and keeps him from meats and drinks that are not fit for him; or he that allows him to glut himself with strong drink, and orders him to have his liberty, and to act, in every respect, as one ought that was in health? Does not this person even aggravate the distemper, the man that seemeth to act humanely, whereas the other amends it? Such truly ought our decision to be in this case also. For it is the part of humanity, not to humour the sick in every thing, nor to flatter their unseasonable desires. No one so loved him that committed fornication amongst the Corinthians, as Paul, who commandeth to deliver him to Satan; no one so hated him, as they that applaud and court him; and the event shewed it. For they indeed both puffed him up, and increased his inflammation; but [the Apostle] both lowered it, and left him not until he brought him to perfect health. And they indeed added to the mischief that already existed, he eradicated even that which existed from the first. These laws, then, of humanity let us learn also. For if thou seest a horse hurrying down a precipice, thou appliest a bit, and holdest him in with violence, and lashest him frequently; although this is punishment; but this punishment is the mother of safety. Thus act also in the case of those that sin. Bind him that hath transgressed until he have appeased God; let him not go loose, that he be not bound the faster by the anger of God. If I bind, God doth not chain; if I bind not, the indissoluble chains await him. *For if we judged ourselves, we should not be judged.* Think not, then, that thus to act cometh of cruelty and inhumanity; nay, but of the highest gentleness, and the most

1 Cor.  
11, 31.

<sup>a</sup> χαλῶν Field. The MSS. have χαλῶν, for which παρακαλῶν and κατακλύων have been conjectured. χαλῶν

is used elsewhere in the same sense by Chrysostom. See above, Hom. XIII. p. 165. line 36.

skilful leechcraft, and of much tender care. But, saith one, <sup>2 COR.</sup> they have been punished for a long time. How long? tell <sup>VII. 7.</sup> me. A year, and two, and three years? Howbeit, I require not this, length of time, but amendment of soul. This then shew, whether they have been pricked to the heart, whether they have reformed, and all is done: since if there be not this, there is no advantage in the time. For neither do we inquire whether the wound has been often bandaged, but whether the bandage has been of any service. If therefore it hath been of service, although in a short time, let it be kept on no longer: but if it have done no service, even at the end of ten years, let it be still kept on: and let this fix the term of release, the good of him that is bound. If we are thus careful, both of ourselves, and of others, and regard not honour and dishonour at the hands of men; but, bearing in mind the punishment and the disgrace that is there, and above all the provoking God, apply with energy the medicines of repentance: we shall both presently arrive at that perfect health, and shall obtain the good things to come; which may all we obtain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom, to the Father, with the Holy Spirit, be glory, might, honour, now and ever, and world without end. Amen.

## HOMILY XV.

2 COR. vii. 8.

<sup>1</sup> 'For,' *So that<sup>1</sup> though I made you sorry with my letter, I do not repent, though I did repent.*

HE goes on to apologize for his Epistle, when, (the sin <sup>2</sup> *θεραπειά* having been corrected,) to treat them tenderly<sup>2</sup> was unattended with danger; and he shews the advantage of the thing. For he did this indeed even before, when he said, c. 2, 4. *For, out of much affliction and anguish of heart, I wrote unto you: not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have toward you.* And he does it also now, establishing this same point in more words. And he said not, 'I repented indeed before, but now I do not repent:' but how? *I repent not now, though I did repent.* 'Even if what I wrote,' he says, 'was such as to overstep <sup>3</sup> *τὸ μέτρον τῆς ἐπιτιμήσεως* the [due] measure of rebuke<sup>3</sup>, and to cause me to repent; still the great advantage which has accrued from them doth not allow me to repent.' And this he said, not as though he had rebuked them beyond due measure, but to heighten his praises of them. 'For the amendment ye manifested was so great,' saith he, 'that even if I did happen to smite you too severely, insomuch that I even condemned myself, I praise myself now from the result.' Just as with little children, when they have undergone a painful remedy, such as an incision, or cantery, or bitter physic, afterwards we are not afraid to sooth them; so also doth Paul.

Ver. 8, 9. *For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though it were but for a season. Now I rejoice not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance.*

Having said, *I do not repent*, he tells the reason also; alleging the good that resulted from his letter; and skilfully



excusing himself by saying, *though but for a season.* For <sup>2 Cor. VII.10.</sup> truly that which was painful was brief, but that which was profitable was perpetual. And what indeed followed naturally was to say, ‘even though it grieved you for a season, yet it hath made you glad, and benefitted you, for ever.’ But he doth not say this: but, before mentioning the gain, he passes again to his praises of them, and the proof of his own concern for them, saying, *Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry,* (‘for what gain came to me from your being made sorry?’) *but that ye sorrowed to repentance,* that the sorrow brought some gain.’ For a father also, when he sees his son under the knife, rejoiceth not that he is being pained, but that he is being cured, so also doth this man. But observe how he transfers all that was well achieved, from that which was done, unto themselves; and lays whatever was painful to the account of the Epistle, saying, *It made you sorry for a season;* whilst the benefit that resulted from it, he speaks of as their own good achieving. For he said not, ‘The Epistle corrected you,’ although this was the case; but, *ye sorrowed unto repentance.*

*For ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.*

Seest thou wisdom unspeakable? ‘For had we not done this,’ he says, ‘we had done you damage.’ And he affirms that indeed, which was well achieved, to be theirs, but the damage his own, if indeed he had been silent. For if they are likely to be corrected by a sharp rebuke, then, if we did not sharply rebuke, we should have done you damage; and the injury would not be with you alone, but also with us. For just as he that gives not to the merchant what is necessary for his voyage, he it is that causeth the damage; so also we, if we did not offer you that occasion <sup>11 τὰς ἀφορμὰς</sup> of repentance, should have wrought you damage. Seest thou, how the not rebuking those that sin is a damage both to the master and to the disciple?

[2.] Ver. 10. *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.*

‘Therefore,’ he says, ‘though I did repent before I saw the fruit and the gain, how great they were, I do not repent now.’ For such a thing is godly sorrow. And then he

HOMIL. philosophizeth about it, shewing that sorrow is not in all cases a grievous thing, but when it is worldly. And what is worldly? If thou be in sorrow for money, for reputation, for him that is departed, all these are worldly. Wherefore also, they work death. For he that is in sorrow for reputation's sake feeleth envy, and is driven oftentimes to perish: such sorrow was that which Cain sorrowed, such Esau. By this worldly sorrow then, he meaneth that which is to the harm of those that sorrow. For in respect to sins alone is sorrow a profitable thing; as is evident in this way. He that sorroweth for loss of wealth, repaireth not that damage; he that sorroweth for one deceased, raiseth not the dead to life again; he that sorroweth for a sickness, not only is not made well, but even aggravates the disease: he that sorroweth for sins, he alone attains some advantage from his sorrow, for he maketh his sins wane and disappear. For since the medicine has been prepared for this thing, in this case only is it potent, and displays its profitableness; and in the other cases is even injurious. 'And yet Cain,' saith one, 'sorrowed because he was not accepted with God.' It was not for this, but because he saw his brother glorious in honour<sup>1</sup>; for had he grieved for this, it behoved him to emulate and rejoice with him; but, as it was, grieving, he shewed that his was a worldly sorrow. But not so did David, not so Peter, nor any of the just. Wherefore they were accepted, when grieving either over their own sins, or over those of others. And yet what is more oppressive than sorrow? Still, when it is after a godly sort, it is better than that joy in the world. For this indeed ends in nothing; but that *worketh repentance unto salvation not to be repented of*. For what is admirable in it is this, that one who had thus sorrowed would never repent, whilst this is an especial characteristic of worldly sorrow. For what is more regretted than a true born son? And what is a heavier grief than a death of this sort? But yet those fathers, who in the height of their grief endure nobody, and who wildly beat themselves, after a time repent, because they have grieved immoderately; as having thereby nothing benefitted themselves, but even added affliction unto themselves. But not such as this is godly sorrow; but it possesseth two advan-

<sup>1</sup> λάμ-  
προς

tages, that of not being condemned in that a man grieves <sup>2 COR. VII. 12.</sup> for, and that this sorrow endeth in salvation; of both which that is deprived. For they both sorrow unto harm and, after they have sorrowed, vehemently condemn themselves, bringing forth this greatest token of having done it unto harm. But godly sorrow is the reverse [of this]: wherefore also he said, *worketh repentance unto salvation not to be repented of*. For no one will condemn himself if he have sorrowed for sin, if he have mourned and afflicted himself. Which also when the blessed Paul hath said, he needeth not to adduce from other sources the proof of what he said, nor to bring forward those in the old histories who sorrowed; but he adduceth the Corinthians themselves; and furnishes his proof from what they had done; that along with praises he might both instruct them, and the rather win them to himself.

Ver. 11. *For behold, he saith, this self-same thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you.* ‘For not only,’ he saith, ‘did your sorrow not cast you into that condemning of yourselves, as having acted idly in so doing; but it made you even more careful.’ Then he speaks of the certain tokens of that carefulness;

*Yea, what clearing of yourselves, towards me. Yea, what* <sup>ver. 11.</sup> *indignation against him that had sinned. Yea, what fear.* For that so great carefulness and very speedy reformation, was the part of men who feared exceedingly. And that he might not seem to be exalting himself, see how quickly he softened it by saying,

*Yea, what vehement desire, that towards me. Yea, what zeal, that on God’s behalf. Yea, what revenge:* for ye also revenged the laws of God that had been outraged.

*In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.* Not only by not having perpetrated, for this was evident before, but also by not consenting<sup>1</sup> unto it. <sup>1</sup> *συνή- διασθαι.* For since he said in the former Epistle, *and ye are puffed* <sup>1</sup> *up;* he says here, ‘ye have cleared yourselves of this sus- <sup>1</sup> *Cor. 5, 2.* picion also; not only by not praising, but also by rebuking and being indignant.’

[3.] Ver. 12. *Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause*

HOMIL. *that had suffered wrong.* For, that they might not say,  
 XV. Why then dost thou rebuke us, if we were *clear in the matter?* setting himself to meet this even further above, and disposing of it beforehand<sup>1</sup>, he said, what he said, namely, *I do not repent, though I did repent.* ‘For so far,’ says he, ‘am I from repenting now of what I wrote then, that I repented then more than I do now, when ye have approved<sup>2</sup> yourselves. Seest thou again his vehemence and earnest contention, how he has turned round what was said unto the very opposite. For what they thought would have made him recant<sup>3</sup> in confusion as having rebuked them hastily, by reason of their amendment; that he uses as a proof that it was right in him to speak freely. For neither does he refuse afterwards to humour them fearlessly, when he finds he can do this. For he that said farther above such things as these, *He that is joined to an harlot is one body*, and, *Deliver such an one to Satan, for the destruction of the flesh*, and, *Every sin that a man doeth is without the body*, and whatever such like things he saith; how saith he here, *Not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that had suffered wrong?* Not contradicting, but being even exceedingly consistent with, himself. How consistent with himself? Because it was a very great point with him, to shew the affection he bore towards them. He does not therefore discard concern for him<sup>4</sup>, but he shews at the same time, as I said, the love he had for them, and that a greater fear agitated him, [namely,] for the whole Church. For he had feared lest the evil should eat further, and, advancing on its way, should seize upon the whole Church. Wherefore also he said, *A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.* This however he said at the time: but now that they had well done, he no longer puts it so, but differently: and implies indeed the same thing, but manages his expressions more agreeably, saying,

*That our care for you might appear unto you.*

That is, ‘that ye might know how I love you.’ Now this is the same thing as the former, but being differently expressed, seemed to convey another meaning. For [to convince thyself] that it is the same, unfold his conception, and thou wilt perceive the difference to be nothing. ‘For because I

<sup>1</sup> προδοι-  
νούμενος

<sup>2</sup> σουςσπῆ-  
σατε

<sup>3</sup> διατρε-  
φάμενοι

1 Cor.  
6, 16.  
5, 5.  
6, 18.

<sup>4</sup> i. e.  
the in-  
cestuous  
person

1 Cor.  
5, 6.

love you exceedingly,' saith he, 'I was afraid lest ye <sup>2 Cor. VI. 13.</sup> should suffer any injury from that quarter, and yourselves succeed to that sorrow.' As therefore when he says, *Doth God take care for oxen?* he doth not mean that He careth not, (for it is not possible for any thing that is to consist, if deserted by the Providence of God :) but that He did not legislate primarily for oxen, so also here, he means to say, 'I wrote firstly indeed on your account, but secondly on his also. And I had indeed that love in myself,' he says, 'even independently of mine Epistle: but I was desirous of shewing it both to you, and, in a word, to all, by that our writing.'

Ver. 13. *Therefore we were comforted.*

Since we both shewed our care for you, and have been wholly successful. As he said also in another place, *Now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord;* and again, *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? are not even ye?* <sup>1 Thess. 3, 8. ib. 2, 19.</sup> For this is life, this comfort, this consolation to a teacher possessed of understanding; the growth<sup>1</sup> of his disciples. <sup>1 ἐκπαιδευσις</sup>

[4.] For nothing doth so declare him that beareth the rule, (3.) as paternal affection for the ruled. For begetting alone constitutes not a father; but, after begetting, also loving. But if, where nature is concerned, there is so great need of love, much more where grace is concerned. In this way were all the ancients distinguished. As many, for instance, as obtained a good report amongst the Hebrews, by this were made manifest. So was Samuel shewn to be great, saying, *But God forbid that I should sin against God in ceasing to pray for you;* so was David, so Abraham, so Elijah, and so each one of the just, of those in the New Testament, of those in the Old. For so Moses, for the sake of those he ruled, left so great riches, and treasures untold, *choosing to suffer affliction with the people of God,* and before his appointment was leader of the people<sup>2</sup> by his actions. Wherefore also, <sup>2 δημαγωγός</sup> very foolishly did that Hebrew say to him, *Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?* What sayest thou? Thou seest <sup>Exod. 2, 14.</sup> the actions, and doubttest of the title? Just as if one, seeing a physician using the knife excellently well, and succouring that limb in the body which was diseased, should say, 'Who made thee a physician, and ordered thee to use the knife?' 'Art, my



HOMIL. good Sir<sup>1</sup>, and thine own ailment.' So too did his knowledge  
 XV. make him<sup>2</sup> what he claimed to be. For ruling is an art,  
<sup>1</sup> ὁ βίλ- not merely a dignity, and that an art above all arts. For if  
 τιστς. the rule of those without is an art and science superior to all  
<sup>2</sup> i. e. other, much more this. For this rule is as much better than  
 Moses. that, as that than the rest; yea, rather, even much more.  
 And, if ye will, let us examine this argument more ac-  
 curately. There is an art of agriculture, of weaving, of  
 building; which are both very necessary, and tend greatly  
 to keep our life together. For others surely are but  
 ancillary to these; the coppersmith's, the carpenter's, the  
 shepherd's. But further, of arts themselves, the most neces-  
 sary of all is the agricultural, which was even that which  
 God first introduced, when He had formed man. For  
 without shoes and clothes it is possible to live; but without  
 agriculture it is impossible. And such they say are the  
 Homoxobii, the Nomads amongst the Scythians, and the  
<sup>3</sup> Ἰνδοὶ. Indian Gymnosophists. For these troubled not themselves<sup>3</sup>  
 with the arts of housebuilding, and weaving, and shoe-  
 making, but need only that of agriculture. Blush, ye that  
 have need of those arts that be superfluous, cooks, con-  
 fectioners, embroiderers, and ten thousand other such people,  
<sup>4</sup> ματαίω- that ye may live; blush, ye that introduce vain refinements<sup>4</sup>  
 τυχνίας into life; blush, ye who are believers, before those barbarians,  
 who have no need of art. For God hath made nature ex-  
<sup>5</sup> ἐξ ἐλ- ceedingly independent, needing only a few things<sup>5</sup>. How-  
 γων ever, I do not compel you, nor lay it down for law, that ye  
 should live thus; but as Jacob asked. And what did he  
 Gen. 28, ask? *If the Lord will give me bread to eat, and rai-*  
 20. *ment to put on.* So also Paul commanded, saying, *And*  
 1 Tim. *having food and raiment, let us be therewith content.*  
 6, 8. First then comes agriculture; second, weaving; and third  
 after it, building; and shoemaking last of all; for amongst  
 us, at any rate, there are many, both servants and labour-  
 ers, who live without shoes. These, therefore, are the  
 useful and necessary arts. Come, then, let us compare  
 them with that of ruling. For I have, therefore, brought  
 forward these that are of all most important, that when it  
 shall have been seen to be superior to them, its victory over  
 the rest may be unquestioned. Whereby then shall we

shew that it is more necessary than all? Because without <sup>2 Cor. VI. 13.</sup> this there is no advantage in these. And if you think good, let us leave mention of the rest, and bring on the stage <sup>11 12; μίσος</sup> that one which stands higher and is more important than any, that of agriculture. Where then will be the advantage of the many hands of your labourers, if they are at war with one another, and plunder one another's goods? For, as it is indeed, the fear of the ruler restrains them, and protects that which is wrought by them; but if thou take this away, in vain is that their labour. But if one examine accurately, he will find yet another rule, which is the parent and bond of this. What then may this be? That whereafter it behoveth each man to control and rule certain principles in himself, chastising his unworthy passions, but both nourishing and promoting the growth of all the germs of virtue with all care.

For there are [these] species of rule; one, that whereby men rule peoples and states, regulating this the political life; which Paul denoting said, *Let every soul be subject to the higher powers; for there is no power but of God.* <sup>Rom. 13, 1. 4.</sup> Afterwards, to shew the advantage of this, he went on to say, that the ruler *is the minister of God for good*; and again, *he is the minister of God, an avenger to execute wrath on him that doeth evil.*

A second there is, whereby every one that hath understanding ruleth himself; and this also the Apostle further denoted <sup>2, 2 παρρησίᾳ</sup> saying, *But if thou wilt not be afraid of the power, do that which is good*; speaking of him that ruleth himself. <sup>λῶσεν Rom. 13, 3.</sup>

[5.] Here, however, there is yet another rule, higher than the political rule. And what is this? That in the Church. And this also itself Paul mentions, saying, *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls as they that must give account.* <sup>Heb. 13, 17.</sup> For this rule is as much better than the political, as heaven is than earth; yea rather, even much more. For, in the first place, it considers principally, not how it may punish sins committed, but how, in the first instance, they may never be committed; next, when committed, not how it may remove the diseased [member], but how they may be blotted out. And of the things of this life indeed it maketh not much account, but all its

HOMIL. transactions are about the things in heaven. *For our*  
 XV. *citizenship*<sup>1</sup> *is in heaven.* And our life is there. *For our*  
 Phil. 3, *life,* saith he, *is hid with Christ in God.* And our prizes  
 20. are there, and our race for the crowns that be there. For  
 Col. 3, 3. <sup>1</sup> *conversion* this life is not dissolved after the end, but then shineth  
 E. V. forth the more. And therefore, in truth, they who bear  
 this rule have a greater honour committed to their hands,  
 not only than viceroys, but even than those themselves who  
 wear diadems, seeing that they mould men in greater, and  
 for greater, things. But neither he that pursueth political  
 rule, nor he that pursueth spiritual, will be able well to  
 administer it, unless they have first ruled themselves as  
 they ought, and have observed with all strictness the  
 respective laws of their polity. For as the rule over the  
 many is in a manner twofold, so also is that which each one  
 exerts over himself. And again, in this point also, the  
 spiritual rule transcends the political, as what we have  
 said proved. But one may observe certain also of the  
 arts imitating rule; and in particular, that of agriculture.  
 For, just as the tiller of the soil is, in a sort, a ruler over  
 the plants, clipping and keeping back<sup>2</sup> some, making  
 others grow, and fostering them: just so also the best  
 rulers punish and cut off such as are wicked, and injure  
 the mass; whilst they advance the good and orderly<sup>3</sup>.  
 For this cause also the Scripture likeneth rulers to vine-  
 dressers. For, what though plants utter no cry, as in states  
 the injured do? nevertheless they still shew the wrong by  
 their appearance, withering, straitened for room, by such  
 weeds as be good for nothing. And like as wickedness is  
 punished by laws, so truly here also, by this art, both bad-  
 ness of soil, and degeneracy and wildness in plants, are cor-  
 rected. For all the variety of human dispositions, we shall  
 find here also, roughness, weakness, timidity, forwardness<sup>4</sup>,  
 steadiness<sup>5</sup>: and some of them through wealth<sup>6</sup> luxuriating  
 unseasonably, and to the damage of their neighbours, and  
 others impoverished and injured; as, for instance, when  
 hedges are raised to luxuriance at the cost of the neighbour-  
 ing plants; when other barren and wild trees, running up to a  
 great height, hinder the growth of those beneath them. And  
 like as rulers and kings have those that vex their rule with

<sup>2</sup> κωλύων,  
 others,  
 κολούων.

<sup>3</sup> ἱσχυί-  
 κεις.

<sup>4</sup> προπί-  
 τεια.  
<sup>5</sup> ὄρ,  
 healthi-  
 ness

<sup>6</sup> κομῶν-  
 τα.

outrage and war; so also hath the tiller of the soil attacks of <sup>2</sup> COR. VII. 13. wild beasts, irregularity of weather, hail, mildew, great rains, drought, and such things whatsoever. But these things happen, in order that thou mayest constantly look unto the hope of God's aid. For the other arts indeed hold their way <sup>1</sup> through <sup>1</sup> συνίσ-  
the diligence of men as well; but this getteth the better as <sup>τανται.</sup>  
God determines the balance, and is throughout almost wholly dependent thereupon, and it needeth rains from above, and the admixture of weathers, and, above all, His Providence. *For neither is he that planteth any thing, nor he that* <sup>1</sup> COR. 3, 7. *watereth, but God that giveth the increase.*

Here also there is death and life, and throes, and procreation, just as with men. For here happen instances both of being cut off, and of bearing fruit, and of dying, and of being born, (the same that was dead,) over again, wherein the earth discourseth to us both variously and clearly of a resurrection. For when the root beareth fruit, when the seed shooteth, is not the thing a resurrection? And one might perceive a large measure of God's providence and wisdom involved in this rule, if one go over it point by point. But, which is what I wished to say, this [rule] is concerned with earth and plants; but ours with care of souls. And great as is the difference between plants and a soul; so great is the superiority of this to that. And the rulers of the present life again are as much inferior to that [rule], as it is better to have mastery over the willing than the unwilling. For this is also a natural rule; for truly in that case, every thing is done through fear, and by constraint; but here, what is done aright is of choice, and purpose. And not in this point alone doth this excel the other, but in that it is not only a rule, but a paternity<sup>2</sup>, so to speak; for it hath the gentleness of a father; <sup>2</sup> πατρει-  
and whilst enjoining greater things, [still] persuades. <sup>της</sup>  
For the temporal ruler indeed says, 'If thou committest adultery, thou hast forfeited thy life,' but this, shouldest thou look with unchaste eyes, threatens the highest punishments. For awful is this judgment court, and for the correction of soul, not of body only. As great then as the difference between soul (5.) and body, is that which separates this rule again from that. And the one indeed sitteth as judge of things that are open;



HOMIL. yea, rather, not of all these even, but of such as can be fully  
 XV. proved; and oftentimes, moreover, even in these dealeth trea-  
<sup>1</sup> πρὸς δόξαν cherously<sup>1</sup>; but this court instructeth those that enter it, that  
 Heb. 4, He that judgeth in our case, will bring forward *all things naked*  
 13. *and opened* before the common theatre of the world, and that  
 to be hidden will be impossible. So that Christianity keeps  
<sup>2</sup> ἡ ζωὴν together this our life far more than temporal<sup>2</sup> laws. For if,  
 to tremble about secret sins makes a man safer, than to fear  
 for such as are open; and if to call him to account even  
 for those offences which be less, doth rather excite him  
 unto virtue, than to punish the graver only; then it is easily  
<sup>3</sup> οὐ γὰρ εὐ- seen that this rule, more than all others, welds<sup>3</sup> our life  
 17 together.

[6.] But, if thou wilt, let us consider also the mode of elect-  
 ing the rulers; for here too thou shalt behold the difference to  
 be great. For it is not possible to gain this authority by  
 giving money, but by having displayed a highly virtuous  
 character; and not as unto glory with men, and ease unto  
 himself, but as unto toils and labours, and the welfare of the  
 many, thus, (I say,) is he that hath been appointed inducted  
 unto this rule. Wherefore also abundant is the assistance he  
 enjoys from the Spirit. And in that case indeed the rule  
 can go no further, than to declare merely what is to be  
 done; but in this it addeth besides, the help derived from  
 prayers and from the Spirit. But further; in that case  
 indeed is not a word about philosophy, nor doth any  
 sit to teach what a soul is, and what at all the world,  
 and what we are to be hereafter, and unto what things  
 we shall depart hence, and how we shall achieve virtue.  
 Howbeit, of contracts, and bonds, and money, there is much  
 speech, but of those things not a thought; whereas in the  
 Church one may see that these are the subjects of every dis-  
 course. Wherefore also with justice may one call it by all these  
 names, a court of justice, and a hospital, and a school of  
 philosophy, and a nursery of the soul, and a training course  
 for that race that leadeth unto heaven. Further, that this  
 rule is also the mildest of all, even though requiring greater  
 strictness, is plain from hence. For the temporal ruler, if  
 he catch an adulterer, straightway punishes him. And yet



what is the advantage of this? For this is not to destroy the <sup>2 Cor.</sup> passion, but to send away the soul with its wound upon it. <sup>VII.13.</sup> But this ruler, when he hath detected, considers not how he shall avenge, but how extirpate the passion. For thou indeed dost the same thing, as if, when there was a disease of the head, thou shouldest not stay the disease, but cut off the head. But I do not thus: but I cut off the disease. And I exclude him indeed from mysteries, and hallowed precincts; but when I have restored him, I receive him back again, at once delivered from that viciousness, and amended by his repentance. ‘And how is it possible,’ saith one, ‘to extirpate adultery?’ It is possible, yea, very possible, if a man comes under these laws. For the Church is a spiritual bath, which wipeth away not filth of body, but stains of soul, by its many methods of repentance. For thou, indeed, both if thou let a man go unpunished, hast made him worse, and if thou punish, hast sent him away uncured: but I neither let him go unpunished, nor punish him, as thou, but both exact a satisfaction which becomes me, and set that right which hath been done. Wilt thou learn in yet another way, how that thou indeed, though baring swords and displaying flames to them that offend, workest not any considerable cure; whilst I, without these things, have conducted them to perfect health? But no need have I of arguments, or words, but I bring forth earth and sea, and human nature itself, [for witnesses.] And inquire, before this court held its sittings, what was the condition of human affairs; how, not even the names of the good works, which now are done, were ever heard of. For who braved death? who despised money? who was indifferent to glory? who, fleeing from the turmoils of life<sup>1</sup>, bade wel- <sup>1 ἐν μέσῳ</sup> come to mountains and solitude, the mother of heavenly wisdom? where was at all the name of virginity? For all these things, and more than these, were the good work of this judgment-court, the doings of this rule. Knowing these things then, and well understanding, that from this proceedeth every benefit of our life, and the reformation of the world, come frequently unto the hearing of the Divine words, and our assemblies here, and the prayers. For if ye thus order

HOMIL. yourselves, ye will be able, having displayed a conversation  
XV. worthy of heaven, to obtain the promised good things; which  
may all we obtain, through the grace and love toward men  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and  
ever. Amen.

## HOMILY XVI.

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2 COR. vii. 13.

*And in your comfort, exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.*

SEE again how he exalts their praises, and sheweth their love. For having said, 'I was pleased that my Epistle wrought so much, and that ye gained so much,' for *I rejoice*, he saith, *not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance*; and having shewn his own love, for he saith, *Though I wrote unto you, I did it not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you might appear to you*: again he mentioneth another sign of their good will, which bringeth them great praise, and sheweth the genuineness of their affection. For, *in your comfort*, he saith, *exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus*. And yet this is no sign of one that loveth them exceedingly; rejoicing rather for Titus than for them. 'Yes,' he replies, 'it is, for I joyed not so much for his cause as for yours.' Therefore also he subjoins the reason, saying, *because his bowels were refreshed by you all*. He said not, 'he,' but *his bowels*; that is, 'his love for you.' And how were they refreshed? *By all*. For this too is a very great praise.

Ver. 14. *For if I have boasted any thing to him of you.*

It is high praise when the teacher boasteth, for he saith, *I am not ashamed*. I was therefore rejoiced, because ye shewed yourselves to be amended, and proved my words by your deeds. So that the honour accruing to me was

<sup>a</sup> In the R. T. the words "in your comfort" are connected with what precedes, not what follows them.

HOMIL. twofold; first, in that ye had made progress; next, in that  
 XVI. I was not found to fall short of the truth.

Ver. 14. *But as we spake always to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth.*

Here he alludes to something further. As we spake all things among you in truth, (for it is probable that he had also spoken to them much in praise of this man<sup>1</sup>,) so also, what we said of you to Titus, has been proved true.

<sup>1</sup> i. e.  
Titus.

<sup>2</sup> Gr.  
bowels.

Ver. 15. *And his inward affection<sup>2</sup> is more abundant toward you.*

What follows is in commendation of him, as exceedingly burnt up with love, and attached to them. And he said not 'his love.' Then that he may not appear to be flattering, he every where mentions the causes of his affection; in order that he may, as I said, both escape the imputation of flattery, and may the more encourage them by making the praise redound unto them, and by shewing that it was they who had infused into him the beginning and ground of this so great love. For having said, *his inward affection is more abundant toward you*; he added,

*Whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all.* Now this both shews that Titus was grateful to his benefactors, seeing he had returned, having them all in his heart, and continually remembereth them, and beareth them on his lips and in his mind; and also is a greater distinction to the Corinthians, seeing that they sent him away so vanquished. Then he mentions their obedience also, magnifying their zeal: wherefore also he addeth these words,

*How with fear and trembling ye received him.* Not with love only, but also with excessive honour. Seest thou how he bears witness to a twofold virtue in them, both that they loved him as a father, and had feared him as a ruler, neither for fear dimming love, nor for love relaxing fear. He expressed this also above, *That ye sorrowed after a godly sort, how great carefulness it wrought in you; yea what fear, yea what vehement desire.*

v. 11.

Ver. 16. *I rejoice therefore, that I have confidence in you in all things.* Seest thou that he rejoiceth more on their account; 'because,' he saith, 'ye have in no particular shamed your teacher, nor shew yourselves unworthy of my testimony.' So

that he joyed not so much for Titus' sake, that he enjoyed so <sup>2 COR.</sup> great honour; as for their own, that they had displayed so <sup>VIII.1.</sup> much good feeling. For that he may not be imagined to joy rather on Titus' account, observe how in this place also he states the reason. As then he said above, *If I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed*; so here also, *I have confidence in you in all things*. 'Should need require me to rebuke, I have no apprehension of your being alienated; or again to boast, I fear not to be convicted of falsehood; or to praise you as obeying the rein, or as loving, or as full of zeal, I have confidence in you. I bade you cut off, and ye did cut off; I bade you receive, and ye did receive; I said before Titus that ye were great and admirable kind of people, and knew to reverence teachers: ye proved these things true by your conduct. And he learnt these things not so much from me, as from you. At any rate, when he returned, he had become a passionate lover of you: your behaviour having surpassed what he had been told.'

[2.] Chap. viii. ver. 1. *Moreover, brethren, I do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia.*

Having encouraged them with these encomiums, he again (2.) tries exhortation. For on this account he mingled these praises with his rebuke, that he might not, by proceeding from rebuke to exhortation, make what he had to say ill received; but having soothed their ears, might by this means pave the way for his exhortation. For he purposeth to discourse of almsgiving; wherefore also he saith beforehand, *I rejoice that I have confidence in you in all things*; by their past good works, making them the more ready to this duty also. And he said not at once, 'Therefore give alms,' but observe his wisdom, how he draws from a distance, and from on high, the preparation for his discourse. For he says, *I do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia*. For that they might not be uplifted, he calleth what they did *grace*; and whilst relating what others did, he worketh greater zeal in them by his encomiums on others. And he mentions together two praises of the Macedonians, or rather three; namely, that they bear temptations nobly; and that they know how to pity; and that, though poor, they



HOMIL. had displayed profuseness in almsgiving, for their property  
 XVI. had been also plundered. And when he wrote his Epistle  
 1 Thess. to them, it was as signifying this that he said, *For ye*  
 2, 14. *became followers of the Churches of God which are in*  
*Judea, for ye also have suffered like things of your own*  
*countrymen, even as they have of the Jews.* Hear what he  
 Heb. 10, said afterwards in writing to the Hebrews, *For ye took*  
 34. *joyfully the spoiling of your goods.* But He calls what they  
 did *grace*, not in order to keep them humble merely; but  
 both to provoke them to emulation, and to prevent what he  
 said from proving invidious. Wherefore he also added the  
 name of *brethren*, so as to undermine all envious feeling;  
 for he is about to praise them in high-flown terms. Listen,  
 at least, to his praises. For having said, *I do you to wit of*  
*the grace of God*, he said not 'which hath been bestowed on  
 this or that city,' but praiseth the entire nation, saying, *on*  
*the Churches of Macedonia.* Then he details also this same  
 grace.

Ver. 2. *How that in a great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy.*

Seest thou his wisdom? For he says not first, that which  
 he wishes; but another thing before it, that he may not  
*ἐπιζητός* seem to do this of set purpose<sup>1</sup>, but to arrive at it by a  
 different connection. *In a great trial of affliction.* This  
 was what he said in his Epistle to the Macedonians them-  
 selves, *Ye became followers of the Lord, having received the*  
 1 Thess. *word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Ghost;* and  
 1, 6. 8. *again, From you sounded out the word of the Lord, not only in*  
*Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place, your faith*  
*to God-ward is spread abroad.* But what is, *in a great*  
*trial of affliction the abundance of their joy?* Both, he  
 says, happened to them in excess; both the affliction, and  
 the joy. Wherefore also the strangeness was great, that so  
 great an excess of pleasure sprang up to them out of afflic-  
 tion. For in truth the affliction not only was not the parent  
 of grief, but it even came to pass unto them, that gladness  
 took its rise therefrom; and this too, though it was *great*.  
 Now this he said, to prepare them to be noble and firm in  
 their temptations. For they were not merely afflicted, but  
 so as also to have become approved by their patience: yea

rather, he says not by their patience, but what was more than <sup>2 COR.</sup> patience, *joy*. And neither said he *joy* simply, but *abundance* <sup>VIII.4.</sup> *of joy*, for it sprang up in them, great and unspeakable.

[3.] *And their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.*

Again, both these with excessiveness. For as their great affliction gave birth to great joy, yea, *abundance of joy*, so their great poverty gave birth to great riches of alms. For this he shewed, saying, *abounded unto the riches of their liberality*. For munificence is determined not by the measure of what is given, but by the mind of those that bestow it. Wherefore he no where says, ‘the richness of the gifts,’ but *the riches of their liberality*. Now what he says is to this effect; ‘their poverty not only was no impediment to their being bountiful, but was even an occasion to them of abounding, just as affliction was of feeling joy. For the poorer they were, the more munificent they were, and contributed the more readily.’ Wherefore also he admires them exceedingly, for that in the midst of so great poverty they had displayed so great munificence. For *their deep*, that is, ‘their great and unspeakable,’ *poverty*, shewed their *liberality*. But he said not ‘shewed,’ but *abounded*; and he said not *liberality*, but *riches of liberality*; that is, an equipoise to the greatness of their poverty, or rather much outweighing it, was the bountifulness they displayed. Then he even explains this more clearly, saying,

Ver. 3. *For to their power, I bear witness.* Trustworthy is the witness. *And beyond their power.* That is, *it abounded unto the riches of their liberality*. Or rather, he makes this plain, not by this expression alone, but also by all that follows; for he says, they were *willing of themselves*. Lo! yet another excessiveness.

Ver. 4. *With much intreaty.* Lo! yet a third and a fourth. *Praying us.* Lo! even a fifth. And when they were in affliction and in poverty. Here are a sixth and seventh. And they gave with excessiveness. Then since (3.) this is what he most of all wishes to provide for in the Corinthians’ case, namely, the giving deliberately, he dwells especially upon it, saying, *with much intreaty*, and *praying us*. ‘We prayed not them, but they us.’ Praying us what?

HOMIL. *That the grace<sup>1</sup> and the fellowship of the ministering to*  
 XVI. *the saints.* Seest thou how he again exalts the deed, calling  
<sup>1</sup> χαρίν it by venerable names. For since they were ambitious<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> ζηλωται of spiritual gifts<sup>3</sup>, he calls it by the name of grace, that  
<sup>3</sup> literal-ly, spi-rits<sup>3</sup> they might eagerly pursue it; and again by that of *fellowship*,  
 that they might learn that they receive, not give only. ‘This  
 therefore they intreated us,’ he says, ‘that we would take  
 upon us such a ministry.’

Ver. 5. *And this they did, not as we hoped.*

This he says with reference both to the amount and to  
 their afflictions. ‘For we could never have hoped,’ he says,  
 ‘that whilst in so great affliction and poverty, they would  
 even have urged us, and so greatly intreated us.’ He shewed  
 also their carefulness of life in other respects, by saying,

*But first gave their own selves to the Lord, and to us by  
 the will of God.*

‘For in every thing their obedience was beyond our  
 expectations; nor because they shewed mercy, did they  
 neglect the other virtues,’ *but first gave themselves to the  
 Lord.* What is, *gave themselves to the Lord*? ‘They offered  
 up [themselves]; they shewed themselves approved in faith;  
 they displayed much fortitude in their trials, order, good-  
 ness, love, in all other things both readiness and zeal.’  
 What means, *and to us*? ‘They were tractable to the rein,  
 loved, obeyed us; both fulfilling the laws of God, and bound  
 unto us by love.’ And observe how here also he again  
 shews their earnestness<sup>4</sup>, saying, *gave themselves to the Lord.*  
 They did not in some things obey God, and in some the  
 world; but in all things Him; and gave themselves wholly  
 unto God. For neither because they shewed mercy, were  
 they filled up with senseless pride, but displaying much  
 lowlymindedness, much obedience, much reverence, much  
 heavenly wisdom, they so wrought their almsdeeds also.  
 But what is, *by the will of God*? Since he had said, they  
*gave themselves to us*, yet was it not, *to us*, after the manner  
 of men, but they did this also according to the mind of  
 God.

<sup>4</sup> ἐν ὁμῶν St. C.  
 οἷς ὁμῶς, R. T.  
 ord. div. [4.] Ver. 6. *Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he  
 had begun before in you, so he would finish this grace also.*  
 And what connexion is there here? Much; and closely

bearing on what went before. ‘For because we saw them <sup>2 COR. VIII. 6.</sup> vehement,’ he says, ‘and fervent in all things, in temptations, in almsgiving, in their love toward us, in the purity otherwise of their life: in order that ye too might be made their equals, we sent Titus.’ Howbeit, he did not say this, though he implied it. Behold excessiveness of love. ‘For though intreated and desired by them,’ he says, ‘we were anxious about your state, lest by any means ye should come short of them. Wherefore also we sent Titus, that by this also being stirred up, and put in mind, ye might emulate the Macedonians.’ For Titus happened to be there when this Epistle was writing. Yet he shews that he had made a beginning in this matter before Paul’s exhortation; *that as he had begun before*, he says. Wherefore also he bestows great praise on him; for instance, in the beginning [of the Epistle]; *Because I found not Titus my brother, I had no rest in my spirit*: and here, all those things which he has said, and this too itself. For this also is no light praise, the having begun before even: for this evinces a warm and fervent spirit. Wherefore also he sent him, infusing<sup>1</sup> amongst<sup>1</sup> them in this also a very great incentive unto giving, the presence of Titus. On this account also he extols him with praises, wishing to endear him more exceedingly to the Corinthians. For this too hath a great weight unto persuading, when he who counsels is upon dear terms. And well does he, both once and twice and thrice, having made mention of almsgiving, call ‘it grace, now indeed saying, *Moreover, brethren, I do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the Churches of Macedonia*; and now, *they were willing of themselves, praying us with much intreaty [to receive] the grace and fellowship*: and again, *that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you this grace also*.

[5.] For this is a great good, and gift of God; and rightly done assimilates us, so far as may be, unto God; for such an one<sup>b</sup> is in the highest sense a man. A certain one, at least, giving a model of a man, has mentioned this, for *Man*, saith he, *is a great thing; and a merciful man is an honourable thing*. Greater is this gift, than to raise the dead. For far greater

<sup>b</sup> *πρῶτος*, in sense equivalent to *ὁ πρῶτος*. See Mr. Field’s Index to Hom. on St. Matt. on the word *πρῶτος*.

**HOMIL.** is it to feed Christ when an hungred, than to raise the dead  
**XVI.** by the name of Jesus: for in the former case thou doest good to Christ, in the latter He to thee. And the reward surely comes by doing good, not by receiving good. For here indeed, in the case of miracles I mean, thou art God's debtor; in that of almsgiving, thou hast God for debtor. Now it is almsgiving, when it is done with willingness, when with bountifulness, when thou deemest thyself not to give but receive, when done as if thou wert benefited, as if gaining and not losing; for so this were not a grace. For he that sheweth mercy on another, ought to feel joyful, not peevish. For how is it not absurd, if whilst removing another's downheartedness, thou art thyself downhearted? for so thou no longer sufferest it to be alms. For if thou art downhearted, because thou hast delivered another from downheartedness, thou furnishest an example of extreme cruelty and inhumanity; for it were better not to deliver him, than so to deliver him. And why art thou also downhearted at all, O man? for fear thy gold should diminish? If such are thy thoughts, do not give at all: if thou art not quite sure that it is multiplied for thee in heaven, do not bestow. But thou seekest thy recompense here. Wherefore? Let thine alms be alms, and not traffic. Now many have indeed received a recompense even here; but have not so received it, as if they should thus have an advantage over those who received it not here; but some of them as being weaker than they ought, because they were not so strongly attracted by the things which are there. And as those who are greedy, and ill-mannered<sup>1</sup>, and slaves of their bellies, being invited to a royal banquet, and unable to wait till the proper time, just like little children, mar their own enjoyment, by taking food beforehand and stuffing themselves with inferior dishes; even so in truth do these also, who seek for and receive [recompense] here, diminish their reward there. Further, when thou lendest, thou wishest to receive thy principal after a longer interval, and perhaps even not to receive it at all, in order that by the delay thou mayest make the interest greater; but, in this case, dost thou ask back immediately; and that too when thou art about to be not here, but there for ever; when thou art about not here to be judged, but there to render

<sup>1</sup> ἀπειροκαλοί.



thine account? And if indeed one were building thee <sup>2 Cor.</sup> mansions where thou wert not going to remain, thou would- VIII.6. est deem this thing to be a loss; but now, desirest thou here to be rich, whence possibly thou art to depart even before the evening? Knowest thou not, that we live in a foreign land, as though strangers and sojourners? Knowest thou not, that it is the lot of sojourners to be ejected when they think not, expect not? which is also our lot. For this reason then, whatsoever things we have prepared, we leave here. For the Lord does not allow us to receive them and depart, if we have built houses, if we have bought fields, if slaves, if gear, if any other such thing. But not only does He not allow us to take them and depart hence, but doth not even account to thee the price of them. For He forewarned thee that thou shouldest not build, nor spend on what is other men's, but thine own. Why therefore, leaving what is thine own, dost thou work and be at cost in what is another's, so as to lose both thy toil and thy wages, and to suffer the extremest punishment? Do not so, I beseech thee; but seeing we are by nature sojourners, let us also be so by choice; that we be not there sojourners, and dishonoured, and cast out. For if we are set upon being citizens here, we shall be so neither here nor there; but if we continue to be sojourners, and live in such wise as sojourners ought to live in, we shall enjoy the freedom of citizens both here and there. For the just, although having nothing, will both dwell here amidst all men's possessions, as though they were his own; and also, when he hath departed to heaven, shall see those his eternal habitations. And he shall both here suffer no discomfort, (for none will ever be able to make him a stranger, that hath every land for his city;) and when he hath been restored to his own country, shall receive the true riches. In order then that we may gain both, both the things of this life and of that, let us use aright the things we have. For so shall we be citizens of the heavens, and shall enjoy much boldness; whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father with the Holy Ghost, be glory and power for ever. Amen.

## HOMILY XVII.

## 2 COR. viii. 7.

<sup>1</sup> ὡς, R. T. *Therefore that* <sup>1</sup> *ye abound* <sup>2</sup> *in every thing; in faith and*  
<sup>2</sup> ὡς πλεονάζετε, *words, and knowledge, and in all diligence.*

σύνητε,  
 R. T.  
 περισσεύετε

SEE again his exhortation accompanied with commendations, greater commendations. And he said not, ‘that ye give,’ but, *that ye abound; in faith*, namely, of the gifts, and *in word*, the word of wisdom, and *knowledge*, namely, of the doctrines, and *in all diligence*, to the attaining of all other virtue.

*And in your love*, that, namely, of which I have before spoken, of which I have also made proof.

*That ye may abound in this grace also.* Seest thou that for this reason it was that he began by that, by those praises, that progressing onwards, he might draw them on to the same diligence in these things also.

Ver. 8. *I speak not by commandment.*

See how constantly he humours them, how he tries to avoid offensiveness, and is not violent, nor compulsory; or rather what he says hath both these, with the inoffensiveness of that which is uncompelled. For after he had repeatedly exhorted them, and had greatly commended the Macedonians, in order that this might not seem to constitute a necessity, he says,

*I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.*

‘Not as doubting it,’ (for that is not what he would here imply,) ‘but to make it approved, display it, and to frame it unto greater strength. For I therefore say these things, that I may provoke you to the same forwardness. And I mention their zeal, to brighten up, to make lightsome, to stimulate your inclinations.’ Then from this he proceeded to another

and a greater point. For he lets slip no mode of persuasion, <sup>2 Cor.</sup> but moves heaven and earth <sup>VIII.</sup> in his handling of his argument. <sup>9. 10.</sup> For he exhorted them both by other men's praises, saying, <sup>πάντα</sup> Ye know the grace of God bestowed on the Churches of <sup>κινῶ</sup> Macedonia; and by their own, therefore that ye abound in every thing, in word and in knowledge. For this hath power to sting a man more, that he falls short of himself, than that he does so of others. Then he proceeds afterwards to the head and the crown of his persuasion,

Ver. 9. *For ye know the grace of our Lord, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich.*

'For have in mind,' says he, 'ponder, and consider the grace of God, and do not lightly pass it by, but aim at realizing <sup>22</sup> <sup>στοχά-</sup> the greatness of it both as to extent and nature <sup>3</sup>, and thou <sup>3</sup> <sup>σασθε</sup> wilt grudge nothing of thine. He emptied Himself of His <sup>3</sup> <sup>δση και</sup> glory, that ye, not through His riches, but through His poverty, might be rich. If thou believest not that poverty is productive of riches, have in mind thy Lord, and thou wilt doubt no longer. For had He not become poor, thou wouldest not have become rich. For this is the marvel, that poverty hath made riches rich.' And by riches here he meaneth the knowledge of godliness, the cleansing away of sins, justification, sanctification, the countless good things which He bestowed upon us, and purposeth to bestow. And all these things accrued to us through His poverty. What poverty? Through His taking flesh on Him, and being made man, and suffering what He suffered. And yet He owed not this, but thou dost owe to Him.

Ver. 10. *And herein I give you<sup>c</sup> my advice for your profit.*

See how again he is careful to give no offence, and he softens down what he says, by these two things, both by saying, *I give advice*, and, *for your profit*. 'For, neither do I compel and force you,' says he, 'or demand it from unwilling subjects; nor do I say these things with an eye so much to the receivers' benefit, as to yours.' Then the instance also which follows, is drawn from themselves, and not from others.

<sup>a</sup> St. Chrysostom inserts ὑμῖν, and for τοῦτο γὰρ ὑμῖν συμφέρει reads, πρὸς τὸ ὑμῶν συμφέρον.

HOMIL.

XVII.

E. V.

marg.

'will'

*Who have begun before, not only to do but also to be forward<sup>1</sup> a year ago.*

See how he shews both that themselves were willing, and had come to this resolution without persuasion. For since he had borne this witness to the Thessalonians, that *of their own accord, with much intreaty*, they had prosecuted this giving of alms; he is desirous of shewing of these also, that this good work is their own. Wherefore he said, *not only to do, but also to be forward*, and not *begun*, but *begun before, a year ago*. Unto these things therefore I exhort you, whereunto ye have beforehand bestirred yourselves with all forwardness.

Ver. 11. *And now also ye have completed<sup>b</sup> the doing of it.*

He said not, ye have done it, but, ye have put a completion to it,

*That as there was a readiness to will, so also [there may be] a performance out of that ye have.*

That this good work halt not at readiness, but receive also the reward that follows upon deeds.

[2.] Ver. 12. *For if there be first a willing mind, 'it is accepted according to that a man hath, not according to that he hath not.*

See wisdom unspeakable. In that (having pointed out those who were doing beyond their power, I mean the Thessalonians, and having praised them for this, and said, *I bear them record, that even beyond their power;*) he exhorteth the Corinthians to do only *after* their power, leaving this instance to do its own work; for he knew that not so much exhortation, as emulation, inciteth unto imitation of the like; wherefore he saith, *For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, not according to that he hath not.*

'Fear not,' he means, 'because I have said these things, for what I said was an encomium upon their munificence<sup>2</sup>, but

<sup>2</sup> φιλοτι-  
μίας

God requires things after a man's power,' *according to that he hath, not according to that he hath not.* For the word is

<sup>3</sup> λαπαί-

ναι.

*accepted*, here implies 'is required.' And he softens<sup>3</sup> it greatly, in confident reliance upon this example, and as winning them more surely, by leaving them at liberty. Wherefore also he added,

<sup>b</sup> ἐπιτελείσατε. ἐπιτελείσατε R. T. which appears to be required in what follows.

Ver. 13 *For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye* <sup>2 COR. VIII. 13, 14.</sup>  
*burdened.* (2.)

And yet Christ praised the contrary conduct in the widow's case, that she emptied out all her living, and gave out of her want. But because he was discoursing to Corinthians, amongst whom he chose to suffer hunger; *for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void*; he therefore uses a tempered exhortation, praising indeed those who had done beyond their power, but not compelling these to do so; not because he did not desire it, but because they were somewhat weak. For wherefore doth he praise those, because *in a great trial of affliction, the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality*: and because they gave *beyond their power*? is it not very evident that it is as inducing these also to this conduct? So that even if he appears to permit to them a lower conduct; he doth so, that by it he may raise them to this. Consider, for instance, how even in what follows, he is covertly preparing the way for this. For having said these things, he added,

Ver. 14. *Your abundance may be a supply for their want.*

For not by the words he has before used alone, but by these also, he is desirous of making the commandment light. Nor yet from this consideration alone, but from that of the recompense also, again, he maketh it easier; and uttereth higher things than they deserve, saying, *That there may be an equality at this time, and their abundance may be a supply for your want.* Now what is it that he saith? 'Ye are flourishing<sup>1</sup> in money; they in life<sup>2</sup>, and in boldness towards God.' <sup>1</sup> κομᾶτε Give ye to them, therefore, of the money, which ye abound in, <sup>2</sup> i.e. ho- but they have not; that ye may receive of that confidence, <sup>liness of</sup> life wherein they are rich, and ye are lacking.' See how he hath covertly prepared for their giving, beyond their power, and of their want. 'For,' he saith, 'if thou art desirous of receiving of their abundance, give of thine abundance; but if to win for thyself the whole, thou wilt give of thy want, and beyond thy power.' He doth not say this, however, but leaves it to the reasoning of his hearers; and himself meanwhile works out his object, and the exhortation that was meet, adding, in keeping with what appeared, the words, that *there*



HOMIL.  
XVII. *may be an equality at this time.* How an equality? You and they mutually giving your superabundance, and filling up your wants. And what sort of equality is this, giving spiritual things for carnal? for great is the advantage on that side; how then doth he call it *equality*? either in respect of each abounding and wanting, doth he say that this [equality] takes place; or else, in respect of the present life only. And therefore, after saying *equality*, he added, *at this time*. Now this he said, both to subdue the high-mindedness of the rich, and also to shew, that after our departure hence, the spiritual possess the greater advantage. For here indeed we all enjoy much equality of honour: but then there will be a wide distinction, and a very great advantage, when the just shine brighter than the sun. Then, since he shewed that they were to be not only giving, but also receiving, and more, in return; he tries by urging a further consideration to make them forward, shewing that if they did not give of their substance to others, they would not gain any thing, by gathering all together within. And he brings forward an ancient story, thus saying,

Ver. 15. *As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over, and he that had gathered little had no lack.*

Now this happened in the case of the manna. For both they that gathered more, and they that gathered less, were found to have the same quantity, God in this way punishing insatiableness. And this he said at once both to alarm them by what then happened, and to persuade them never to desire what was more, nor to be grieved at having less. And this one may see happening now in things of this life: not in the manna only. For if we all fill but one belly, and live the same length of time, and clothe one body; neither will the rich gain aught by his abundance, nor the poor lose aught by his poverty.

[3.] Why then tremblest thou at poverty? and why pursuest thou after wealth? ‘I fear,’ saith one, ‘lest I be compelled to go to other men’s doors, and to beg from my neighbour.’ And I constantly hear also many praying to this effect, and saying, ‘Suffer me not at any time to stand in need of men?’ And I laugh exceedingly when I hear these prayers, for this fear is even childish. For every day, and

in every thing, so to speak, do we stand in need of one another. So that these are the words of an unthinking and puffed up spirit, and that doth not clearly discern the nature of things. Seest thou not that all of us are in need one of another? The soldier of the artisan, the artisan of the merchant, the merchant of the husbandman, the slave of the free man, the master of the slave, the poor man of the rich, the rich man of the poor, he that worketh not of him that giveth alms, he that bestoweth of him that receiveth. For he that receiveth alms supplieth a very great want, a want greater than any. For if there were no poor, the greater part of our salvation would be overthrown, in that we should not have where to bestow our wealth. So that even, the poor man, who appears to be more useless than any, is the most useful of any. But if to be in need of another is disgraceful, it remains to die; for it is not possible for a man to live, who is afraid of this. ‘But,’ saith one, ‘I cannot bear brows arched [in scorn.]’ Why dost thou, in accusing another of arrogance, disgrace thyself by this thy accusation? for to be unable to endure the inflation of a proud soul is arrogant. And why fearest thou these things, and tremblest thou at these things, and on account of these things, which are worthy of no account, darest poverty also? For if thou be rich, thou wilt stand in need of more, yea of more and meaner. For just in proportion to thy wealth, dost thou subject thyself to this curse. So ignorant art thou of what thou prayest, when thou askest for wealth in order to be in need of no man; just as if one, having come to a sea, where there is need both of sailors, and a ship, and stores of outfit without end, should pray that he might be in need of nothing at all. For if thou art desirous of being exceedingly independent of every one, pray for poverty; and [then] if thou art dependent on any, thou wilt be so only for bread and raiment; but in the other case thou wilt have need of others, both for lands, and for houses, and for imposts, and for wages, and for rank, and for safety, and for honour, and for magistrates, and those subject to them, both those in the city, and those in the country, and for merchants, and for shopkeepers. Do you see that those words are words of extreme senselessness? For, in a word, if to be in need of

**HOMIL.** another appears to thee a dreadful thing, [know that] it is  
**XVII.** impossible altogether to escape it; but if thou wilt avoid the  
tumult, (for thou mayest take refuge in the waveless haven of  
poverty,) cut off the great tumult of thy affairs, and deem  
not this disgraceful to be in need of another; for this is the  
doing of God's unspeakable wisdom. For if we stand in  
need one of another, yet even the compulsion of this need  
draweth us not together unto love; had we been independent,  
should we not have been untamed wild beasts? Perforce, and  
of compulsion, God hath subjected us one to another, and  
<sup>ἑσυχροῦ ὁμιθε</sup> every day we are in collision <sup>1</sup> one with another. And had He  
removed this curb, who is there who would readily have longed  
after his neighbour's love? Let us then neither deem this to  
be disgraceful, nor pray against it, and say, 'Grant us not  
to stand in need of any one;' but let us pray and say,  
'Suffer us not, when we are in need, to refuse those who are  
able to help us.' It is not the standing in need of others, but  
seizing the things of others, that is grievous. But now we have  
never prayed in respect to that, nor have ever said, 'Grant  
me not to covet other men's goods;' but to stand in need,  
<sup>2 ἀπεικ- ταίων</sup> this we think a fit subject of deprecation<sup>2</sup>. Yet Paul stood  
in need many times, and was not ashamed; nay, even prided  
himself upon it, and praised those that had ministered to  
Phil. 4, him, saying, *For ye sent once and again in my necessities;*  
16  
cap. 11, and again, *I robbed other Churches, taking wages of them to*  
8. *do you service.* It is no mark therefore of a generous  
temper, but of softness, and of a low minded and senseless  
spirit, to be ashamed of this. For it is even God's decree  
that we should stand in need one of another. Push not  
therefore thy philosophy beyond the mean. 'But,' saith  
one, 'I cannot bear a man that is entreated often, and  
complieth not.' And how shall God bear thee, who art  
entreated by Him, and yet obeyest not; and entreated too  
cap. 5, in things that advantage thee? *For we are ambassadors*  
20. *for Christ,* saith he, *as though God did beseech you by us;*  
*be ye reconciled unto God.* 'And yet, I am His servant,'  
saith he. And what of that? For when thou, the servant,  
art drunken, whilst He, the Master, is hungry, and hath not  
even necessary food, how shall thy name of servant stand  
thee in stead? Nay, this itself will even the more weigh

thee down, when thou indeed abidest in a three-storied <sup>2 COR. VIII. 15.</sup> dwelling, whilst He owns not even a decent shelter; when thou [liest] upon soft couches, whilst He hath not even a pillow. 'But,' saith one, 'I have given.' But thou oughtest not to leave off so doing. For then only wilt thou have an excuse, when thou hast not what [to give], when thou possessest nothing; but so long as thou hast, (though thou have given to ten thousand,) and there be others hungering, there is no excuse for thee. But when thou both shuttest up corn, and raisest the price, and devisest other unusual tricks of traffic; what hope of salvation shalt thou have henceforth? Thou hast been bidden to give freely to the hungry, but thou dost not give at a suitable price even. He emptied Himself of so great glory for thy sake, but thou dost not count Him deserving even of bread; but thy dog is fed to fulness, whilst Christ wastes with hunger; and thy servant bursteth with surfeiting, whilst thy Lord and his is in want of necessary food. And how are these the deeds of friends? *Be ye reconciled unto God*, for these are [the deeds] of c. 5, 2. enemies, and such as are in hostility.

[4.] Let us then think with shame on the great benefits we have already received, the great benefits we are yet to receive. And if a poor man come to us and beg, let us receive him with much good will, comforting, raising him up with [our] words, that we ourselves also may meet with the like, both from God, and from men. *For whatsoever ye would that* <sup>MAT. 7,</sup> *they should do unto you, do ye also unto them.* Nothing <sup>12.</sup> burdensome, nothing offensive, doth this law contain. 'What thou wouldest receive, that do,' it saith. The return is equal. And it said not, 'what thou wouldest not receive, that do not,' but what is more. For that indeed is an abstinence from evil things, but this is a doing of good things, in which the other is involved. Also He said not 'that do ye also wish, but do, to them.' And what is the advantage? *This is the Law and the Prophets.* Wouldest thou have mercy shewn thee? Then shew mercy. Wouldest thou obtain forgiveness? Then grant it. Wouldest thou not be evil spoken of? Then speak not evil. Longest thou to receive praise? Then bestow it. Wouldest thou not be wronged? Then do not thou plunder. Seest thou how He shews that virtue is natural,

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and that we need no external laws, nor teachers? For in the things we wish to receive, or not to receive from our neighbours, we legislate unto ourselves. So that if thou wouldest not receive a thing, yet doest it, or if thou wouldest receive it, yet doest it not, thou art become self-condemned, and art henceforth without any excuse, on the ground of ignorance and of not knowing what ought to be done. Wherefore, I beseech you, having set up this law in ourselves for ourselves, and reading this that is written so clearly and succinctly, let us become such to our neighbours, as we would have them be to ourselves; that we may both enjoy present immunity<sup>1</sup>, and obtain the future good things, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, together with the Holy Spirit, be glory, power, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> ἀδίσιας



## HOMILY XVIII.

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2 COR. viii. 16.

*But thanks be to God, Which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.*

AGAIN he praises Titus. For since he had discoursed of almsgiving, he afterwards discourseth also of those who are to receive the money from them, and to carry it away. For this was of aid<sup>1</sup> towards this collection, and towards increasing<sup>1</sup> συν-βάλλετο. the forwardness of the contributors. For he that feels confidence as to him that ministereth<sup>a</sup>, and suspects not those who are to be receivers, gives over and above with the fuller bountifulness. And that this might be the case then also, hear how he commends those that had come for this purpose, the first of whom was Titus. Wherefore also he saith, *But thanks be to God, Which put<sup>2</sup> the same earnest care into the<sup>2</sup>* literally, gave *heart of Titus.* What is the same? Which he had also in respect to the Thessalonians, or the same with me? And mark here wisdom. Shewing this to be the work of God, he also gives thanks to Him that gave, so as to incite by this also. ‘For if God stirred him up, and sent him to you, He asks through Him. Think not therefore that what has happened is of men.’ And whence is it manifest that God incited him?

Ver. 17. *For indeed he accepted the exhortation, but being more forward, he went of his own accord.*

Observe how he also represents him, as fulfilling his own part, and needing no prompting from others. And having mentioned the grace of God, he doth not leave the whole to be God’s; again, that by this also he may win them unto greater

<sup>a</sup> Or, ‘in respect to that which is ministered.’

HOMIL. love, having said that he was stirred up from himself<sup>1</sup> also.  
 XVIII. For, *being more forward, he went of his own accord*, 'he seized  
<sup>1</sup> οἰκόμενος  
 at the thing, he rushed upon the treasure, he considered your service to be his own advantage; and because he loved you exceedingly, he wanted not the exhortation I gave; but though he was exhorted by me also, yet it was not by that he was stirred up; but from himself, and by the grace of God.'

Ver. 18. *And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the Gospel throughout all the Churches.*

And who is this brother? Some indeed say, Luke, because of the history which he wrote, but some, Barnabas; for he calls the unwritten preaching also, the Gospel. And for what cause does he not mention their names; whilst he both makes Titus known<sup>2</sup> by name, and praises him for his cooperation in the Gospel, (seeing that he was so useful, that by reason of his absence even Paul could do nothing great and  
<sup>2</sup> vid. also ver. 23.  
 c. 2, 13. noble; for, *because I found not Titus my brother, I had no rest in my spirit*;) and for his love towards them, (for, saith  
 c. 7, 15. he, *his inward affection is more abundant towards you*;) and for his zeal in this matter (*for, he saith, of his own accord he went*)? But these he neither equally commends, nor mentions by name? What then is one to say? Perhaps they did not know them; wherefore he does not dwell upon their praises, because as yet they had had no experience of them, but only says so much, as was sufficient for their commendation unto  
<sup>3</sup> i.e. the  
 Corinthians them<sup>3</sup>, and to their escaping all evil suspicion. However, let us see on what score he eulogizes this man himself also. On what score then does he eulogize? First, praising him from his preaching; that he not only preached, but also as he ought, and with the befitting earnestness. For he said not, 'he preaches and proclaims the Gospel,' but *whose praise is in the Gospel*. And that he may not seem to flatter him, he brings not one, or two, or three men, but whole Churches to testify to him, saying, *throughout all the churches*. Then he makes him respected also from the judgment of those that had chosen him. And this too is no light matter. Therefore after saying, *Whose praise is in the Gospel throughout all the churches*, he added,

Ver. 19. *And not only so.*

What is, *and not only so*? 'Not only on this account,' he

says, 'is respect due to him, that he is approved as a preacher and is praised by all.' 2 COR.  
VIII.  
20.

*But he was also chosen of the churches along with us.*

Whence it seems to me, that Barnabas is the person intimated. And he signifies his dignity to be great, for he shews also for what office he was chosen. For he saith,

*To travel with us with this grace which is administered by us.* Seest thou how great are these praises of him? He shone as a preacher of the Gospel, and he had all the churches testifying to this. He was chosen by us; and unto the same office with Paul, and every where was partner with him, both in his temptations and in his dangers, for this is implied in the word *travel*. But what is, *with this grace which is administered by us*? So as to proclaim the word, he means, and to preach the Gospel; or to minister also in respect of the money; yea, rather, he seems to me to speak in respect of both of these. Then he adds,

*To the glory of the same Lord, and your ready mind.* What he means is this: 'We thought good,' he says, 'that he should be chosen with us, and be appointed unto this work, so as to become a dispenser and a minister of the sacred money.' Nor was this a little matter. For, *Look ye out*, it Acts 6, saith, *from among you seven men of honest report*; and he 3. was chosen by the churches, and there was a vote of the whole people taken. What is, *to the glory of the same Lord, and your ready mind*? 'That both God may be glorified, and ye may become the readier, they who are to receive this money being of proved character, and no one<sup>1</sup> able to engender<sup>1</sup> or 'no-  
any false suspicion against them. Therefore we sought out<sup>thing'</sup> (2.) such persons, and entrusted not the whole to one person only, that he might escape this suspicion also; but we sent both Titus, and another with him. Then to interpret this same expression, *to the glory of the Lord and your ready mind*: he added,

Ver. 20. *Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us.*

What can this be which is said? A thing worthy of the virtue of Paul; and shewing the greatness of his tender care and his condescension. 'For,' he says, 'that none should suspect us, nor have the slightest cavil against us, as though we pur-

**HOMIL.**  
**XVIII.** loined aught of the money placed in our hands; therefore we sent such persons, and not one only, but even two or three. Seest thou how he clears them of all suspicions? Not on account of the Gospel, nor of their having been chosen merely; but also, from persons of proved character, (and for this very reason,) having been chosen, that they might not be suspected. And he said not ‘that ye should not blame,’ but ‘that no other person should.’ And yet it was on their account that he did this; and he implied as much in saying, *to the glory of the same Lord, and your ready mind*: however, he does not wish to wound them; and so expresses himself differently,

*Avoiding to do this.* And he is not satisfied with this either, but by what he adds, soothes again, saying,

*In this abundance which is administered by us, and mingling his severity with praise.* For that they might not feel hurt, and say, ‘Is he obliged then to regard us with suspicion, and are we so miserable as ever to have been suspected of these things?’ Providing a correction against this too, he says, ‘the money sent by you is of large amount, and this abundance, that is, the large amount of the money, is enough to afford suspicion to the evil-minded had we not offered that security<sup>1</sup>.’

<sup>1</sup> τὴν ἀ-  
σφαλίαν

Ver. 21. *For we provide for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.*

What can compare with Paul? For he said not, ‘Perdition and woe to him who chooses to suspect any thing of the kind. So long as my conscience does not condemn me, I waste not a thought on those who suspect me.’ Rather, the weaker they were, the more he condescended. For it is meet not to be angry with, but help, him that is sick. And yet from what sin are we so removed, as he was from any such suspicion? For not even a devil could have suspected that blessed saint of this unfaithfulness. But still, although so far removed from that evil suspicion, he does every thing, and resorts to every expedient<sup>2</sup>, so as not to leave a shadow even to those who might be desirous in any way<sup>3</sup> of suspecting something wrong; and he not only avoids accusations, but also blame, and the slightest censure, and bare suspicion.

<sup>2</sup> πραγμα-  
ματεύει-  
ται  
<sup>3</sup> καὶ  
ὑποσχεῖται

[2.] Ver. 22. *And we have sent with them our brother.*

Behold, again he adds yet another, and him also with an encomium; both his own judgment, and many other witnesses [to him]. 2 Cor. VIII. 23.

*Whom, saith he, we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent.* And having praised him from his own good works, he extols him also from his love towards them; and what he said of Titus, that *being more forward he went of his own accord*; this he says of this person also, saying, *but now much more diligent*; laying up beforehand for them the seeds of [the proof of their] love toward the Corinthians.

And then, after having shewed forth their virtue, he exhorts them also on their behalf, saying,

Ver. 23. *Whether concerning Titus; he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you.*

What is, *Whether concerning Titus*? 'If,' says he, 'it be necessary to say any thing, this I have to say,' *that he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you.* For he either means this; or, 'if ye will do any thing for Titus, ye will do it unto no ordinary person, for he is *my partner*.' And whilst appearing to be praising him, he magnifies them, shewing them to be so disposed towards himself, as that it were sufficient ground of honour amongst them, that any one should appear to be his *partner*. But, nevertheless, he was not content with this, but he also added another thing, saying, *fellowhelper concerning you.* Not merely *fellowhelper*, 'but in matters concerning you, in your progress, in your growth, in our friendship, in our zeal for you;' which last would avail most especially to endear<sup>1</sup> him unto them. <sup>1</sup> οἰκεῖν.

*Or our brethren*: 'or whether you wish,' he says, 'to hear any thing about the others: they too have very great claims to be commended to you. For they also,' he saith, 'are our brethren, and,

*The messengers of the Churches*,' that is, sent by the Churches. Then, which is greater than all,

*The glory of Christ*; for to Him is referred whatever shall be done to them. 'Whether then ye wish to receive them as brethren, or as Apostles of the Churches, or as acting for the glory of Christ; ye have many motives for good will towards them. For on behalf of Titus, I have to say, that he is both *my partner*, and a lover of you; on behalf of these,



**HOMIL. XVIII.** that they are *brethren*, that they are *the apostles of the churches*, that they are *the glory of Christ*. Seest thou that it is plain from hence also, that they were of such as were unknown to them? For, otherwise, he would have set them off by those things, with which he had also set off Titus, namely, his love towards them. But whereas as yet they were not known to them, 'Receive them,' he says, 'as brethren, as apostles of the churches, as doing this for the glory of Christ.' On which account he adds;

Ver. 24. *Wherefore shew ye unto them, unto the person<sup>b</sup> of the churches, the proof of your love, and of your boasting on your behalf.*

'Now shew,' he saith, 'how ye love us; and how we do not lightly nor vainly boast in you: and this ye will shew, if ye shew forth love towards them.' Then he also makes his words more solemn, by saying, *unto the person of the churches*. He means, to the glory, the honour, of the churches. 'For if ye honour them, ye have honoured the churches that sent them. For the honour passeth not to them alone, but also to those that sent them forth, who ordained them, and more than these, unto the glory of God.' For when we honour those that minister to Him, the kind

<sup>1</sup> τὰ τῆς ἐκκλησίας <sup>1</sup> reception<sup>1</sup> passeth unto Him, unto the common body of the churches. Now this too is no light thing, for great is the potency of that assembly.

[3.] Certain it is at least, that the prayer of the churches loosed Peter from his chains, opened the mouth of Paul; their voice also in no slight degree accoutres those that arrive unto spiritual rule. Therefore indeed it is, that both he who is going to ordain calleth at that time for their prayers also, and that they add their votes and assent by acclamations, which the initiated know; for it is not lawful before the uninitiated to unbare all things. But there are occasions in which there is no difference at all between the

<sup>2</sup> literally, 'en-joy' priest and those under him; for instance, when we are to partake of the awful mysteries; for we are all alike counted worthy of the same things: not as under the Old Testament, [when] the priest ate some things, and those under him others, and it was not lawful for the people to partake of

<sup>b</sup> εἰς πρόσωπον. E. V. 'before,' but St. Chrysostom seems to understand the words, 'unto the person of.'

those things whereof the priest partook. But not so now, <sup>2 COR. VIII. 24.</sup> but before all one body is set and one cup. And in the prayers also, one may observe the people contributing much. For in behalf of the possessed, in behalf of those under penance, the prayers are made in common, both by the priest and by them; and all say one prayer, that prayer replete with pity. Again, when we have excluded from the holy precincts those who are unable to partake of the holy table, it behoveth that another prayer be offered, and we all alike fall upon the ground, and all alike rise up. Again, when it behoveth to receive and give peace, we all alike salute each other. Again, in the most awful mysteries themselves, the priest prays for the people, and the people also pray for the priest; for the words, *with thy spirit*, are nothing else than this. The offering of thanksgiving again is common: for neither doth he give thanks alone, but also all the people. For having first taken their voices, next when they assent that it is "meet and right so to do," then he begins the thanksgiving. And why marvellest thou, that the people any where utter aught with the priest, when indeed even with the very Cherubim, and the powers above, they send up in common those sacred hymns? Now I have said all this, in order that each one of the laity also may keep their attention awake<sup>1</sup>, that we may understand that we are all one <sup>1</sup> *ἑνὸς* body, having such difference amongst ourselves, as members with members; and may not throw the whole upon the priests; but ourselves also so care for the whole Church, as for a body common to us. For this course will provide for our<sup>c</sup> greater safety, and for your greater growth unto virtue. Hear, at least, in the case of the Apostles, how frequently they admitted the laity to share in their decisions. For when they ordained the seven, they first communicated <sup>Acts 6, 2. 3.</sup> with the people; and when Peter ordained Matthias, with all <sup>Acts 1,</sup> that were then present, both men and women. For here<sup>2</sup> is <sup>15. &c.</sup> no pride of rulers, nor slavishness in the ruled; but a spi- <sup>2</sup> *i. e. in the* ritual rule, in this particular usurping<sup>3</sup> most, in taking on <sup>Church</sup> itself the greater share of the labour, and of that care which <sup>3</sup> *πλείον- εκ τούτων*. is on your behalf, not in seeking larger honours. For so

<sup>c</sup> The reading of this passage has for the first time been rendered sound by Mr. Field's labours.

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XVIII. ought the Church to dwell, as one house; as one body, so to be all disposed; just as therefore there is both one Baptism, and one table, and one fountain, and one creation, and one Father. Why then are we divided, when so great<sup>1</sup> things unite us; why are we torn asunder? For we are compelled again to bewail the same things, which I have lamented often. The state in which we are calls for lamentation; so widely are we severed from each other, when we ought to image the conjunction<sup>2</sup> of one body. For in this way will he, that is greater, be able to gain even from him that is less. For if Moses learnt from his father-in-law somewhat expedient, which himself had not perceived, much more in the Church may this happen. And how then came it, that what he that was an unbeliever perceived, he that was spiritual perceived not? That all those of that time might understand, that he was a man; and though he divide the sea, though he cleave the rock, he needeth the influence of God, and that those acts were not of man's nature, but of God's power. And so now, if such and such an one doth not say expedient things, let another rise up and speak; and though he be an inferior, yet if he say somewhat to the purpose<sup>3</sup>, confirm his opinion; and even if he be of the very meanest, do not shew him disrespect. For no one of these is at so great a distance from his neighbour, as Moses' father-in-law was from him, yet he disdained not to listen to him, but even admitted his opinion, and was persuaded, and recorded it; and was not ashamed to hand down the circumstance to history; casting down [so] the pride of the many. Wherefore also he left this story to the world<sup>4</sup>, engraven as it were on a pillar, for he knew that it would be useful to many. Let us then not overlook those who give us behoveful counsel, even though they be of those under us, though they be of the meaner sort, nor insist that those counsels prevail which we have ourselves introduced; but whatever shall appear to be best, let that be approved by all. For many of duller sight have perceived things, sooner than those of acute vision, by means of diligence and attention. And say not, "why dost thou call me to council, if thou hearkenest not to what I say?" These

<sup>1</sup> Or, so many

<sup>2</sup> συνά-  
φαιαν

Exod.  
18, 14.  
&c.

<sup>3</sup> τῶν  
συντς-  
λόουντων.

<sup>4</sup> τῷ βίῳ. See Wisdom 10, 8. for this use of the word.

accusations are not a counsellor's, but a despot's. For the counsellor hath only power to speak his own opinion; but if something else appear more profitable, and yet he will carry his own opinion into effect, he is no longer a counsellor, but a despot, as I said. Let us not, then, act in this manner; but having freed our souls from all arrogancy and pride, let us consider, not how our own counsels only may stand, but how that opinion which is best may prevail, even though it may not have been brought forward by us. For no light gain will be ours, even though we should not have discovered what behoveth, if ourselves accept what has been pointed out by others; and abundant is the reward we shall receive from God, and so too shall we best attain to glory. For as he is wise that speaketh that which is behoveful, so shall we, that have accepted it, ourselves also, reap the praise of prudence and of candour. Thus if both houses and states, thus too if the Church be ordered, she will receive a larger increase; and so too shall we ourselves, having thus best ordered our present lives, receive the good things to come: whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 COR.  
VIII.  
24.

οὐκ ἀνε-  
μουμένη

## HOMILY XIX.

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2 COR. ix. 1.

*For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you.*

THOUGH he had said so much about it, he says here, *It is superfluous for me to write to you.* And his wisdom is shewn not only in this, that though he had said so much about it, he saith, *it is superfluous for me to write to you*, but in that he yet again speaketh of it. For what he said indeed a little above, he said concerning those who received the money, to ensure them the enjoyment of great honour: but what he said before that, (his account of the Macedonians, that *their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality*, and all the rest,) was concerning loving-kindness, and almsgiving. But nevertheless, although he both had said so much before, and was going to speak again, he says, *it is superfluous for me to write to you.* And this he does the rather to win them to himself. For a man who has so high a reputation, as not to stand in need even of advice, is ashamed to appear inferior to, and come short of, that opinion of him. And he does this often in accusation also, using the rhetorical figure, omission, for this is very effective. For the judge seeing the magnanimity of the accuser, entertains no suspicions even. For he argues, ‘he who when he might say much, yet saith it not, how should he invent what is not true?’ And he gives occasion to suspect even more than he says, and invests himself with the presumption of a good disposition. This also in his advice, and in his praises, he does. For having said, *It is superfluous for me to write to you*, observe how he advises them,

*For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast*



of you to them of Macedonia. Now, it was a great thing, that <sup>2 COR. IX. 1.</sup> he even knew it himself, but much greater, that he also published it to others: for the force it has is greater: for they would not like to be so widely disgraced. Seest thou his wisdom of purpose? He exhorted them by others' example, the Macedonians, for, he says, *I do you to wit of the grace of God* c. 8, 1. *bestowed upon the Churches of Macedonia.* He exhorted them by their own, for he saith, *who have begun before not* <sup>ibid. 10.</sup> *only to do, but also to be forward, a year ago.* He exhorted them by the Lord's, for ye know he saith, *the grace of our* <sup>ibid. 9.</sup> *Lord, that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor.* Again he retreats upon that strong main point, the conduct of others. For mankind is emulous. And truly the example of the Lord ought to have had most power to draw them over: and next to it, the [consideration] of the recompense: but because they were somewhat weak, this draws them most. For nothing does so much as emulation. But observe how he introduces it in a somewhat novel way. For He did not say, 'Imitate them;' but what?

*The emulation caused by you hath provoked very many.* What sayest thou? A little before thou saidst, [they did it] of *their own accord, praying as with much intreaty*, how then now, *the emulation caused by you?* 'Yes,' he saith, 'we did not advise, we did not exhort, but we only praised you, we only boasted of you, and this was enough for exhortation of them.' Seest thou how he incites them each by the other, these by those, and those by these, and, along with the emulation, has intermingled also a very high encomium. Then, hat he may not elate them, he follows it up in a tempered tone, saying, *The emulation caused by you hath provoked very many.* Now consider what a thing it is, that those, who have been the occasion to others of this munificence, should be themselves behind hand in this contribution. Therefore he did not say, 'Imitate them,' for it would not have kindled so great an emulation, but how? 'They have imitated you; see then that ye the teachers appear not inferior to your disciples.'

And see, how, whilst stirring up and inflaming them still more, he feigns to be standing by them, as if espousing their party in some rivalry and contention. For, as he said above, *Of their own accord, with much entreaty they came to us,*

- HOMIL. *insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he*  
 XIX. *would finish the same grace;* so also he says here,

Ver. 3. *For this cause have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting should be in vain.*

Seest thou that he is in anxiety and terror, lest he should seem to have said, what he said, only for exhortation's sake? 'But because so it is,' saith he, *I have sent the brethren;* 'so earnest am I on your behalf,' *lest our boasting should be in vain.* And he appears to make himself of the Corinthians' party throughout, although caring for all alike. What he says is this; 'I am very proud of you, I glory unto all, I boasted even unto them<sup>1</sup>, so that if ye be found wanting, I am partner in the shame.' And this indeed he says under limitation, for he added,

<sup>1</sup> i. e.  
them of  
Mace-  
donia.

*In this behalf, not, in all points;*

*That as I said, ye may be ready.* 'For I did not say, 'they are purposing,' but 'all is ready; and nothing is now wanting on their part. This then,' he says, 'I wish to be shewn by your deeds.' Then he even heightens the anxiety, saying,

- Ver. 4. *Lest haply if there come with me any from*  
 (2.) *Macedonia, we, (that we say not ye,) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.* The shame is greater, when the spectators he has arrayed against them, are many, even those same persons who had heard [his boasting.] And he did not say, 'for I am bringing with me Macedonians;' 'for there are Macedonians coming with me;' lest he should seem to do it on purpose; but how [said he?] *Lest haply, if there come with me any from Macedonia?* 'For this may happen to be,' he says, 'it is matter of possibility.' For thus he also made what he said unsuspected, but had he expressed himself in that other way, he would have even made them the more contentious. See how he leads them on, not from spiritual motives only, but from human ones as well. 'For,' says he, 'though you make no great account of me, and reckon confidently on my excusing you, yet think of them of Macedonia,' *lest haply if they come and find you;* and he did not say 'unwilling,' but *unprepared*, not having got all completed. But if this be a disgrace, not to contribute quickly; consider how great it were, to contribute either not at all, or less than behoved. Then he lays down

what would thereupon follow, in terms at once gentle and <sup>2 Cor.</sup> pungent, thus saying, *We, (that we say not ye,) should be* IX. 5. *ashamed.* And he tempers it again, saying, *in this same confident boasting,* not as making them more listless, but as shewing, that they, who were approved in all other respects, ought in this one also to have great fearlessness.

[2.] Ver. 5. *Therefore I thought it necessary to send the brethren before, that they might make up beforehand this your bounty, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.*

Again, he has resumed the subject in a different manner: and that he may not seem to be saying these things without object, he asserts that the sole reason for this journey was, that they might not be ashamed. Seest thou how his words, *It is superfluous for me to write,* were the beginning of advising? You see, at least, how many things he discourses concerning this ministering. And along with this, one may further remark, that, (lest he should seem to contradict himself as having said, *It is superfluous,* yet discoursing at length about it,) he passed on unto discourse of quickness and largeness, and forwardness [in contributing,] by this means securing that point also. For these three things he requires. And indeed he moved these three main points even at the first, for when he says, *In a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy, and their deep poverty, abounded unto the riches of their liberality,* he says nothing else, than that they contributed both much, and gladly, and quickly; and that not only did not giving much pain them, but not even being in trials, which is more grievous than giving. And the words, *they gave themselves to us;* these also, shew both their forwardness, and the greatness of their faith. And here too again he treats of those heads. For since these are opposed to [each other,] munificence and forwardness, and one that has given much is often sorrowful, whilst another, that he may not be sorry, gives less; observe how he takes care for each, and with the wisdom which belongs to him. For he did not say, ‘it is better to give a little, and of free choice, than much of necessity;’ because he wished them to contribute both much, and of free choice; but how saith he? *that they might make up beforehand this your*

\* This verse, as given by Chrysostom, varies somewhat from the Received Text.

HOMIL.  
XIX.  
1 a bless-  
ing,  
εὐλογίαν *bounty, that the same might be ready as a matter of bounty<sup>1</sup>, and not as of covetousness.* He begins first with that which is pleasantest and lighter; namely, the ‘not of necessity,’ for, it is *bounty* he says. Observe how, in the form of his exhortation, he represents at once the fruit as springing up, and the givers as filled with blessing. And by the term employed he won them over, for no one gives a blessing with pain. Yet neither was he content with this; but added, *not as of covetousness*. ‘Think not,’ he says, ‘that we take it out of covetousness, but that we may be the cause of a blessing unto you.’ For covetousness is on the part of the unwilling, so that whoso giveth alms unwillingly, giveth of covetousness<sup>2</sup>. Then from this he passed on again unto that, the giving munificently.

<sup>2</sup> literally,  
giveth  
covet-  
ousness

Ver. 6. *This too I say*: that is, along with this I say also that. What?

*He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully.* And he did not say niggardly, but a milder expression, employing the name of the sparing. And he called the thing sowing; that thou mightest at once look unto the recompense, and having in mind the harvest, mightest feel that thou receivest more than thou givest. Wherefore he did not say, ‘He that giveth,’ but *He that soweth*: and he said not ‘ye, if ye sow,’ but made what he said general. Neither did he say, ‘largely,’ but *bountifully*, which is far greater than this. And again, he betakes himself to that former point of gladness; saying,

Ver. 7. *Let every one do according as he is disposed in his heart.* For a man, when left to himself, does a thing more readily, than when compelled. Wherefore also he dwells upon this: for having said, *according as he is disposed*, he added,

*Not grudgingly, nor of necessity.* And neither was he content with this, but he adds a testimony from Scripture also, saying,

*For God loveth a cheerful giver.* Seest thou how frequently he lays this down? *I speak not by commandment*: and, *Herein I give my advice*: and, *as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness* and again, *not grudgingly, nor of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.* In this passage I am of opinion, that a large [giver] is intended; the Apostle however has taken it, as of giving with readiness.

For because the example of the Macedonians and all those other things were enough to produce sumptuousness, he <sup>2 Cor. 1X.8.9.</sup> does not say many things on that head, but upon giving without reluctance. For if it is a work of virtue, and yet all that is done of necessity is shorn of its reward, it is with reason that he labours at this point. And he does not advise merely, but also adds a prayer, as his wont is to do, saying,

Ver. 8. *And may God<sup>1</sup>, that is able, fulfil all grace towards<sup>2</sup> you.* <sup>E. V. God is able to, &c.</sup>

By this prayer he takes out of the way a thought which lay in wait against<sup>2</sup> this liberality, and which is now also an hindrance to many. For many persons are afraid to give alms, saying, 'Lest perchance I become poor,' 'lest perchance I need aid from others.' To do away this fear then, he adds this prayer, saying, 'May He *make all grace abound towards you.*' Not merely fulfil, but *make it abound*. And what is *make grace abound*? 'Fill you,' he means, 'with so great things, that ye may be able to abound in this liberality.'

*That ye, having always all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*

Observe, even in this his prayer, his great philosophy. He prays not for riches, nor for abundance, but for all sufficiency. Nor is this all that is admirable in him; but that as he prayed not for superfluity, so he doth not press sore on them, nor compel them to give of their want, condescending to their weakness; but asks for a *sufficiency*, and shews at the same time, that they ought not to abuse the gifts received from God. *That ye may abound*, he saith, *to every good work*. 'It is therefore,' saith he, 'I ask for this, that ye may bestow on others also.' Yet he did not say, 'bestow,' but *abound*. For in carnal things he asks for a sufficiency for them, but in spiritual things for abundance even; not in almsgiving only, but in all other things also, *unto every good work*. Then he brings forward unto them the prophet for a counsellor, having sought out a testimony inviting them to plentifulness, and says,

Ver. 9. *As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth for ever.*



**HOMIL.** This is the import of *abound*; for the words, *he hath dispersed abroad*, signify nothing else but the giving plentifully. **XIX.** For if the things themselves abide not, yet their results abide. For this is the thing to be admired, that when they are kept, they are lost; but when dispersed abroad, they abide, yea, abide for ever. Now by *righteousness*, here, he means love towards men. For this maketh righteous, consuming sins like a fire, when it is plentifully poured out.

**MORAL.** [3.] Let us not therefore nicely calculate, but sow with a profuse hand. Seest thou not how much others give to players, and to harlots? Give at any rate the half to Christ, of what they give to dancers. As much as they give of ostentation, to those upon the stage, so much at any rate give thou unto the hungry. For they indeed even clothe the persons of wantons<sup>1</sup> with untold gold; but thou not even with a threadbare garment the flesh of Christ, and that though beholding it naked. What forgiveness doth this deserve, yea, how great punishment doth it not deserve, when he indeed bestoweth so much upon her that ruineth and shameth him, but thou not the least thing on Him that saveth thee, and maketh thee brighter? But as long as thou spendest upon thy belly, and on drunkenness, and dissipation<sup>2</sup>, thou never thinkest of poverty: but when need is to relieve poverty, thou art become poorer than any body. And when feeding parasites and flatterers, thou art as joyous as though thou hadst fountains to spend from<sup>3</sup>; but if thou chance to see a poor man, then the fear of poverty besets thee. Therefore surely we shall in that day be condemned, both by ourselves, and by others, both by those that have done well, and those that have done amiss. For He will say to thee, ‘Wherefore wast thou not thus magnanimous in things where it became thee? But here is a man, who, when giving to an harlot, thought not of any of these things; whilst thou,

<sup>1</sup> ἱεραρισ-  
ξομένων

<sup>2</sup> ἀσωτίαν

<sup>3</sup> ἀπὸ  
πηγῶν  
δαπανῶν

**Matt. 6,** when bestowing upon thy Master, Who hath bid thee *take no thought*, art full of fear and trembling.’ And what forgiveness then shalt thou deserve? For if a man who hath received will not overlook, but will requite the favour, much more will Christ. For He that giveth even without receiving, how will He not give after receiving? ‘What then,’ saith one, ‘when some who have spent much, come to

25.

need other men's help?' Thou speakest of those that have <sup>2 COR. IX. 9.</sup> spent their all; when thou thyself bestowest not a farthing. Promise to strip thyself of every thing; and then ask questions about such men; but as long as thou art a niggard, and bestowest little of thy substance, why throw me out excuses and pretences? For neither am I leading thee to the lofty peak of entire poverty <sup>1</sup>, but for the present I require thee <sup>1</sup> *ἀκτῆ-μοσύνης* to cut off superfluities, and to desire a sufficiency alone. Now the boundary of sufficiency is the using those things, which it is impossible to live without. No one debars thee from these; nor forbids thee thy daily food. I say food, not feasting; raiment, not ornament<sup>a</sup>. Yea rather, if one should enquire accurately, this is in the best sense feasting. For, consider. Which should we say more truly feasted, he whose diet was herbs, and was in sound health, and suffered no uneasiness: or he who had the table of a Sybarite, and was full of ten thousand disorders? Very plainly the former. Therefore let us seek nothing more than this, if we would at once live luxuriously and healthfully: and let us set these boundaries to sufficiency. And let him that can be satisfied with pulse, and can keep in good health, seek for nothing more; but let him who is weaker, and requires to be dieted with garden herbs, not be hindered of this. But if any be even weaker than this, and require the support of flesh in moderation, we will not debar him from this either. For we do not advise these things, to kill and injure men, but to cut off what is superfluous; and that is superfluous which is more than we need. For when we are able even without a thing to live healthfully and respectably, certainly the addition of that thing is a superfluity.

[4.] Thus let us think also in regard of clothing, and of the table, and of a dwelling house, and of all our other wants; and in every thing inquire what is necessary. For what is superfluous is also useless. When thou shalt have practised living on what is sufficient; then if thou hast a mind to emulate that widow, we will lead thee on to greater things than these. For thou hast not yet attained to the philosophy of that woman, whilst thou art anxious about what is suffi-

<sup>a</sup> Chrys. τροφήν, οὐ τρυφήν λέγω' σκεπάσματα, οὐ καλλωπίσματα, with a manifest play on the words.

HOMIL. cient. For she soared higher even than this; for what was  
 XIX. to have been her support; that she cast in, all of it. Wilt thou then still distress thyself about such things as be necessary; and dost thou not blush to be vanquished by a woman; and not only not to emulate her, but to be left even of her far behind? For she did not say the things we say, 'But what, if, when I have spent all, I be compelled to beg of another?' but in her munificence stripped herself of all she had. What shall we say of the widow in the Old Testament, in the time of the prophet Elias? For the risk she ran was not of poverty, but even of death and extinction, and not her own only, but her children's too. For neither had she any expectation of receiving from others, but of presently dying. 'But,' saith one, 'she saw the prophet, and that made her munificent.' But do not ye see saints with number? And why do I speak of saints? Ye see the Lord of the prophets asking an alms, and yet not even so do ye become humane; but though ye have coffers spewing<sup>1</sup> one into another, do not even impart of your superfluity. What sayest thou? Was he a prophet that came to her, and did this persuade her to so great a magnanimity? This of itself deserves much admiration, that she was persuaded of his being a great and wonderful person. For how was it she did not say, as it would have been likely that a barbarian woman and a foreigner would have reasoned, 'If he were a prophet, he would not have begged of me. If he were a friend of God, He would not have neglected him. Be it, that because of sins the Jews suffer this punishment: but whence, and wherefore, doth this man suffer?' But she entertained none of these thoughts; but opened to him her house, and before her house, her heart; and set before him all she had; and putting nature on one side, and disregarding her children, preferred the stranger unto all. Consider then how great punishment will be laid up for us, if we shall come behind<sup>2</sup> and be weaker than a woman, a widow, poor, a foreigner, a barbarian, a mother of children, knowing nothing of these things which we know! For because we have strength of body, we are not therefore manly persons. For he alone hath this virtue, yea though he be laid upon his bed, whose strength is from within; since without this,

<sup>1</sup> ἔρευ-  
γόμενα

<sup>2</sup> ἔλατ-  
τον φέ-  
ρωμεν

though a man should tear up a mountain by his strength of <sup>2</sup> Cor. body, I would call him nothing stronger than a girl or <sup>IX. 9.</sup> wretched crone. For the one struggles with incorporeal ills, but the other dares not even look them in the face. And that thou mayest learn that this is the measure of manliness, collect it from this very example. For what could be more manly than that woman, who both against the tyranny of nature, and against the force of hunger, and against the threat of death, stood nobly fast, and proved stronger than all? Hear at least how Christ proclaimeth her. For, saith He, *there were many* <sup>Luke 4,</sup> *widows in the days of Elias, and to none of them was the* <sup>25. 26.</sup> *prophet sent but to her.* Shall I say something great and startling? This woman gave more to hospitality, than our father Abraham. For she *ran* not *unto the herd* as he, but, by that *hand-* <sup>Gen. 18,</sup> *ful,* she outstripped all that have been renowned for hospitality. <sup>7.</sup> <sup>1 Kings</sup> For in this was his excellence, that he set himself to do that <sup>17, 12.</sup> office; but hers, in that, for the sake of the stranger, she spared not her children even, and that too, though she looked not for the things to come. But we, though a heaven exists, though a hell is threatened, though (which is greater than all) God hath wrought such great things for us, and is made glad and rejoiceth over such things, sink back supinely <sup>1.</sup> <sup>ἄναπε-</sup> <sup>πτῶκα-</sup> <sup>μεν</sup> Not so, I beseech you: but let us *scatter abroad*, let us *give to the poor* as we ought to give. For what is much and what little, God defines, not by the measure of what is given, but by the capability of the substance of him that gives. Often surely hast thou, who didst cast in an hundred staters of gold, offered less than he that offered but one obol, for thou didst cast in of thy superfluity. Howbeit, do if but this, and thou wilt come perhaps even to greater munificence. Scatter wealth, that thou mayest gather righteousness. For along with wealth this refuseth to come to us; yet through it, though not with it, it is made present to us. For it is not possible that lust of wealth and righteousness should dwell together; they have their tents apart. Do not then obstinately strive to bring together things which are incompatible, but banish the usurper covetousness, if thou wouldest obtain the kingdom. For this <sup>2</sup> is the [rightful] queen, and <sup>2</sup> i. e. of slaves makes freemen, the contrary of which the other <sup>righte-</sup> <sup>ousness</sup> doth. Wherefore with all earnestness let us shun the one,

HOMIL. and welcome the other, that we may both gain freedom in  
XIX. this life, and obtain the kingdom of heaven, through the  
grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with  
Whom, to the Father, together with the Holy Spirit, be glory,  
might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end.  
Amen.



## HOMILY XX.

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2 COR. ix. 10.

*Now He that ministereth seed to the sower, both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.*

HEREIN one may particularly admire the wisdom of Paul, that, after having exhorted from spiritual considerations and from temporal, in respect of the recompense also he again does the very same, making the returns he mentions of either kind. This, (for instance,) *He hath scattered abroad, he hath given to the poor, his righteousness endureth for ever*; belongs to a spiritual return; that again, *multiply your seed sown*, to a temporal recompense. Still, however, he rests not here, but even again passes back to what is spiritual, placing the two continually side by side; for, *increase the fruits of your righteousness*, is spiritual. This he does, and gives variety by it to his discourse, tearing up by the roots those their unmanly and faint-hearted reasonings, and using many arguments to dissipate their fear of poverty, as also the example which he now brings. For if even to those that sow the earth God gives, if to those that feed the body He grants abundance; much more will He to those who till the soil<sup>1</sup> of heaven, to those who take care for the soul; <sup>1</sup> γερων-  
for these things He willeth should yet more enjoy His providing γούσι  
care. However, he does not state this in the way of inference, nor in the manner I have done, but in the form of a prayer; thus at once making the inference plain, and the rather leading them on to hope, not only from what [commonly]

HOMIL. takes place, but also from his own prayer: for, ‘May He  
 XX. minister,’ saith he, ‘and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.’ Here also again he hints, in an unsuspecting way, at largeness [in giving], for the words, *multiply and increase*, are by way of indicating this; and at the same time he allows them to seek for nothing more than necessities, saying, *bread for food*. For this also is particularly worthy of admiration in him, (and it is a point he successfully established<sup>1</sup> even before,) namely, that in things which be necessary, he allows them to seek for nothing more than need requires; but in spiritual things counsels them to get for themselves a large superabundance. Wherefore he said above also, *that having a sufficiency ye may abound to every good work*: and here, *He that ministereth bread for food, multiply your seed sown*; that is to say, the spiritual [seed]. For he asks not almsgiving merely, but with largeness. Wherefore also he continually calls it *seed*. For like as the corn cast into the ground sheweth luxuriant crops, so also many are the handfuls almsgiving produceth of righteousness, and unspeakable the fruits it sheweth. Then having prayed for great affluence unto them, he shews again in what they ought to expend it, saying,

Ver. 11. *That being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*

Not that ye may consume it upon things not fitting, but upon such as bring much thanksgiving to God. For God hath made us to have the disposal of great things, and reserving to Himself that which is less, hath yielded to us that which is greater. For corporeal<sup>2</sup> nourishment is at His sole disposal, but mental He hath permitted to us; for we have it at our own disposal, whether the crops we have to shew be luxuriant. For no need is here of rains, and of variety of seasons, but of the will only, and they run up to heaven itself. And largeness in giving is what he here calls *bountifulness*<sup>4</sup>. Which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For neither is that which is wrought almsgiving merely, but also the ground of much thanksgiving: yea, rather, not of thanksgiving only, but of many other things besides. And these, as he goes on, he mentions, that by shewing it to be the cause of many good works, he may make them thereby the forwarder.

<sup>1</sup> κατε-  
σκέυα-  
σεν

<sup>2</sup> αἰσθη-  
τῆς

<sup>3</sup> νοητῆν

<sup>4</sup> Gr.  
‘simpli-  
city.’

[2.] What then are these many good works? Hear him <sup>2 COR.</sup> saying: <sup>IX.</sup>  
<sup>12—14.</sup>

Ver. 12—14. *For the administration of this service, not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; whiles by the trial<sup>1</sup> of this ministration, they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the Gospel<sup>a</sup>, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; and by their prayer for you, which long after you, for the exceeding grace of God in you.* <sup>E. V. experi-ment.</sup>

What he says is this; ‘in the first place ye not only supply the wants of the saints, but ye are abundant even;’ that is, ‘ye furnish them with even more than they need: next, through them ye send up thanksgiving to God, for they glorify Him *for your professed subjection.*’ For that he may not represent them as giving thanks on this account solely, (I mean, because they received somewhat,) see how high-minded he makes them, exactly as he himself says to the Philippians, *Not that I desire a gift.* <sup>Phil. 4,</sup> ‘To them too, I bear record of the same <sup>17.</sup> thing. For they rejoice indeed, that ye supply their wants and alleviate their poverty; but far more, in that ye are so subjected to the Gospel; whereof this is an evidence, your contributing so largely.’ For this the Gospel enjoins.

*And for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men.* ‘And on this account,’ he says, ‘they glorify God that ye are so liberal, not unto them only, but also unto all.’ And this again is made a praise unto them, that they gave thanks even for that which is bestowed upon others. ‘For,’ saith he, ‘they do honour<sup>2</sup>, not to their own concerns only, but also <sup>2 κοσμοῦ-σι.</sup> to those of others, and this although they are in the extremest poverty; which is an evidence of their great virtue. For nothing is so full of envy, as the whole race of such as are in poverty. But they are pure from this passion; being so far from feeling pained, because of the things ye impart to others, that they even rejoice over it no less, than over the things themselves receive.’

*And by their prayer for you.* ‘For in respect of these things,’ saith he, ‘they give thanks to God, but in respect of your love and your coming together, they beseech Him that they may be counted worthy to see you. For

<sup>a</sup> Rec. T. *Gospel of Christ.*

HOMIL. they long after this, not for the money's sake, but that  
XX. they may be witnesses of the grace that hath been bestowed

(2.) upon you.' Seest thou Paul's wisdom, how after having exalted them, he ascribed the whole to God by calling the thing *grace*? For seeing he had spoken great things of them, in that he called them ministers, and exalted them unto a great height, (since they offered service<sup>1</sup> whilst he himself did but administer<sup>2</sup>;) and termed them 'tried<sup>3</sup>,' he shews that God was the Author of all these things. And he himself again, along with them, sends up thanksgiving, saying,

<sup>1</sup> ἐλεῖ-  
τοῦρ-  
γοῦν.

<sup>2</sup> διηκο-  
νεῖτο.

<sup>3</sup> i. e. in  
the  
word,  
trial

Ver. 15. *Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.*

And here he calls *gift*, even those so many good things which are wrought by almsgiving, both to them that receive, and them that give; or else, those unspeakable good things, which through His advent He gave unto the whole world with great munificence, which one may suspect to be the most probable. For that he may at once both sober, and make them more liberal, he puts them in mind of the benefits they had received from God. For this avails very greatly in inciting unto all virtue; and therefore he concluded his discourse with it. But if His Gift be unspeakable, what can match their frenzy who raise curious questions as to His Essence? But not only is His Gift unspeakable, but that *peace* also *passeth all understanding*, whereby He reconciled the things which are above, to the things which are below.

Phil. 4,  
7.

MORAL. [3.] Seeing then that we are in the enjoyment of so great grace, let us strive to exhibit a virtue of life worthy of it, and to make much account of almsgiving. And this we shall do, if we shun excess, and drunkenness, and gluttony. For God gave meat and drink not for excess, but for nourishment. For it is not the wine that produceth drunkenness, for if that were the case, every body would needs be drunken. 'But,' saith one, 'it would be better, if even to drink it largely did not injure.' These are drunkards' words. For if to drink it largely doth injure, and yet not even so thou desistest from thy excess in it; if this is so disgraceful and injurious, and yet thou ceasest not even so from thy depraved longing; if it were possible both to drink largely and be nothing harmed, where wouldest thou have stayed in thine excess? Wouldest thou not have longed that

<sup>1</sup> ἀδδη-  
φάγιαν

the rivers even might become wine? wouldest thou not have destroyed and ruined every thing? If there is a mean in food, which when we overpass we are injured, and yet even so thou canst not bear the curb, but, snapping it asunder, seizest on what every body else hath, to minister to the wicked tyranny of this gluttony; what wouldest thou not have done, if this natural mean were abolished? wouldest thou not have spent thy whole time upon it? Would it then have been well to have strengthened a lust so unreasonable, and not to have prevented the harm arising from excess? and to how many other harms would not this have given birth?

But O the senseless ones! who wallowing, as in mire, in drunkenness and all other debauchery, when they have got a little sober again, sit down and do nothing but utter such sort of sayings, 'Why doth this end' in this way?' when they ought to be condemning their own transgressions. For instead of what thou now sayest, 'Why hath He set bounds? why do not all things go on without any order?' say, 'Why do we not cease from being drunken? why are we never satiated? why are we more senseless than creatures without reason?' For these things they ought to ask one another, and to hearken to the voice of the Apostle, and learn how many good things he witnesseth to the Corinthians proceed from almsgiving, and to seize upon this treasure. For to condemn money, maketh men approved, as he said; and provideth that God be glorified; and warmeth love; and worketh in men loftiness of soul; and constituteth them priests, yea of a priesthood that bringeth great reward. For the merciful man is not arrayed in a vest reaching to the feet, nor does he carry about bells, nor wear a crown; but he is wrapped in the robe of loving-kindness, a holier than the sacred vestment, and is anointed with oil, not composed of material elements, but manufactured<sup>2</sup> by the Spirit, and he beareth a crown of mercies, for it is said, *Who crowneth thee with pity and with mercies*; and instead of wearing a plate bearing the Name of God, is himself like to God. For how? *Ye, saith He, shall be like unto your Father which is* in heaven.

2 COR.  
IX. 15.

<sup>1</sup> ἀναλίσ-  
κεται

<sup>2</sup> γέωρ-  
γούμενος  
Ps. 103,

<sup>4</sup>  
Matt. 5,  
45.

<sup>a</sup> This is St. Chrysostom's usual reading of the passage. As e.g. in his commentary on the text itself. Hom. xviii. on St. Matthew, Oxf. Translation p. 277.



HOMIL.  
XX.

(3.)

Wouldest thou see His altar also? Bezaleel built it not, nor any other, but God Himself; not of stones, but of a material brighter than the heaven, of reasonable souls. But the priest entereth into the holy of holies. Into yet more awful places mayest thou enter when thou offerest this sacrifice, where none is present but *thy Father*,

Matt. 6, *Which seeth in secret*, where no other beholdeth. 'And how,'

4. saith one, 'is it possible that none should behold, when the altar standeth in public view?' Because this it is that is admirable, that in those times double doors and veils made the seclusion: but now, though doing thy sacrifice in public view, thou mayest do it, as in the holy of holies, and in a far more awful manner. For when thou doest it not for display before men; though the whole world hath seen, none hath seen, because thou hast so done it. For He

Matt. 6, said not simply, *Do it not before men*, but added, *to be seen*

1. *of them*. This altar is composed of the very members of Christ, and the body of the Lord is made thine altar. That then revere; on the flesh of the Lord thou sacrificest the victim. This altar is more awful even than this which we now use, not only than that used of old. Nay, clamour not. For this altar is admirable, because of the sacrifice that is laid upon it: but that, the merciful man's, not only on this account, but also because it is even composed of the very sacrifice, which maketh the other to be admired. Again, this is but a stone by nature; but become holy, because it receiveth Christ's Body: but that is holy, because it is itself Christ's Body. So that this, beside which thou, the layman, standest, is more awful than that. Whether then does Aaron seem to thee aught in comparison of this, or his crown, or his bells, or the holy of holies? For what need is there henceforth to make our comparison refer to Aaron's altar, when even compared with this, it has been shewn to be so glorious? But thou honourest indeed this altar, because it receiveth Christ's body; but him that is himself the body of Christ thou treatest with contumely, and when perishing, neglectest. This altar mayest thou every where see lying, both in lanes and in market places, and mayest sacrifice upon it every hour; for on this too is sacrifice performed. And as the priest stands invoking the Spirit, so dost thou too invoke

the Spirit, not by speech, but by deeds. For nothing doth <sup>2 COR.</sup> so sustain and kindle the fire of the Spirit, as this oil, if <sup>IX. 15.</sup> largely poured out. But if thou wouldest see also what becomes of the things laid upon it, come hither, and I will shew thee them. What then is the smoke, what the sweet savour of this altar? Praise and thanksgiving. And how far doth it ascend? as far as unto heaven? By no means, but it passeth beyond the heaven itself, and the heaven of heaven, and arriveth even at the throne of the King. For, *Thy prayers*, saith he, *and thine alms are come up before* <sup>Acts 10,</sup> *God.* And the sweet savour, which the sense perceives, <sup>4.</sup> pierceth not far into the air, but this openeth the very vault of heaven. And thou art silent, but thy work speaketh <sup>1:1</sup> <sup>βοᾶ</sup> and a sacrifice of praise is made, no heifer slain, nor hide burnt, but a spiritual soul presenting her proper offering. For such a sacrifice is more acceptable than any loving-kindness. When then thou seest a poor believer, think that thou beholdest an altar: when thou seest such an one a beggar, not only insult him not, but even reverence him, and if thou seest another insulting him, prevent, repel it. For so shalt thou thyself be able both to have God propitious to thee, and to obtain the promised good things, whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom and with Whom, to the Father and the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

## HOMILY XXI.

2 COR. x. 1, 2.

*Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: but I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.*

HAVING completed, in such sort as behoved, his discourse of almsgiving, and having shewn that he loves them more than he is loved, and having recounted the circumstances of his patience and temptations, he now opportunely enters upon points involving more of reproof, making allusion to the false apostles, and concluding his discourse with more disagreeable matter, and with commendations of himself. For he makes this his business also throughout the Epistle. Which also perceiving, he hence oftentimes corrects himself, saying in so many words<sup>1</sup>; *Do we begin again to commend ourselves?* and further on; *We commend not ourselves again, but give you occasion to glory:* and afterwards; *I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me.* And many such correctives doth he use. And one would not be wrong in styling this Epistle an eulogium of Paul; he makes such large mention both of his grace and his patience. For since there were some amongst them who thought great things of themselves, and set themselves above the Apostle, and accused him as a boaster, and as being nothing, and teaching no sound doctrine; (now this was in itself the most certain evidence of their own corruptness;) see how he begins his

<sup>1</sup> αὐτὸ  
τοῦτο  
c. 3, 1.  
c. 5, 12.  
c. 12, 11.

rebuke of them; *Now I Paul myself.* Seest thou what <sup>2 Cor.</sup> severity, what dignity, is here? For what he would say is <sup>X. 1, 2.</sup> this, 'I beseech you do not compel me, nor leave me to use my power against those that hold us cheap, and think of us as carnal.' This is severer than those threats towards them uttered in the former Epistle; *Shall I come unto you with a* <sup>1 Cor.</sup> *rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?* and then <sup>4, 21.</sup> again; *Now some are puffed up as though I would not* <sup>ib. 18, 19.</sup> *come to you; but I will come, and will know not the speech of them that are puffed up, but the power.* For in this place he shews both things, both his power, and his philosophy and forbearance; since he so beseeches them, and with such earnestness, that he may not be compelled to come to a display of the avenging power pertaining to him, and to smite and chastise them, and exact the extreme penalty. For he implied this in saying, *But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.* For the present, however, let us speak of the commencement. *Now I Paul myself.* Great emphasis, great weight<sup>1</sup> is here. So he says else-<sup>1 Or, 'se-</sup> where, *Behold I Paul say unto you;* and again, *As Paul* <sup>Gal. 5,</sup> *the aged;* and again in another place, *Who hath been a* <sup>2.</sup> *succourer of many, and of me.* So also here, *Now I* <sup>Phile. 9.</sup> *Paul myself.* This even is a great thing, that himself <sup>Rom.</sup> beseecheth; but that other is greater which he added, saying, *by the meekness and gentleness of Christ.* For with the wish of greatly shaming them, he puts forward that *meekness and gentleness*, making his entreaty in this way more forcible; as if he had said, 'Reverence the gentleness of Christ, by which I beseech you.' And this he said, at the same time also shewing, that although they should lay ever so strong<sup>2</sup> a necessity upon him, he himself is more inclined to this: it is from being meek, not from want of power, that he does not proceed against them: for Christ also did in like manner.

*Who in presence am base amongst you, but being absent am bold towards you.* What, pray, is this? Surely he speaks in irony, using their speeches. For they said this, that 'when he is present indeed, he is worthy of no account,

HOMIL. of no account, but poor and contemptible; but when absent, XXI. swells, and brags, and sets himself up against us, and  
 v. 10. threatens.' This at least he implies also afterwards, saying, *for his letters, say they, are weighty, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.* He either then speaks in irony, manifesting great severity, and saying, 'I, the base, I, the mean, when present, (as they say,) and when absent, lofty:' or else meaning, that even though he should utter great things, it is not out of pride, but out of his confidence in them.

*But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some which think of us, as if we walked according to the flesh.* Seest thou how great his indignation, and how complete his refutation of those sayings of theirs? For he saith, 'I beseech you, do not compel me to shew that even present I am strong, and have power.' For since they said, that 'when absent, he is quite bold against us, and exalteth himself,' he uses their very words, 'I beseech therefore, that they compel me not to use my power.' For this is the meaning of, *that confidence.* And he said not, 'wherewith I am prepared,' but *wherewith I think.* 'For I have not yet resolved upon this; they however give me reason enough, but not even so do I wish it.' And yet he was not doing this to vindicate himself, but the Gospel. Now if, where it was necessary to vindicate the Message, he is not harsh, but draws back and delays, and beseeches that there may be no such necessity; much more would he never have done any thing of the kind in his own vindication. (2.) 'Grant me then this favour,' he saith, 'that ye compel me not to shew, that even when present, I am able to be bold against whomsoever it may be necessary; that is, to chastise and punish them.' Seest thou how free he was from ambition, how he did nothing for display, since even where it was matter of necessity, he hesitates not to call the act, boldness. *For I beseech you,* he says, *that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some.* For this especially is the part of a teacher, not to be hasty in taking vengeance, but to work a reformation, and ever to be reluctant and slow in his punishments. How, pray, does he describe those whom he



threatens? *Those that think of us as though we walked* <sup>2 COR.</sup> *according to the flesh:* for they accused him as a hypocrite, <sup>X. 4.</sup> as wicked, as a boaster.

[2.] Ver. 3. *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.*

Here he goes on to alarm them also by the figure<sup>1</sup> he uses, <sup>1</sup> τροπή 'for,' says he, 'we are indeed encompassed with flesh; I own it, but we do not live by the flesh;' or rather, he said not even this, but for the present reserves it, for it belongs to the encomium on his life: but first discourseth of the Preaching, and shews that is not of man, nor needeth aid from beneath. Wherefore he said not, 'we do not live after the flesh,' but, *we do not war after the flesh*, that is, 'we have undertaken a war and a combat; but we do not war with carnal weapons, nor by help of any human succours.'

Ver. 4. *For our weapons are not carnal.*

For what sort of weapons are carnal? Wealth, glory, power, fluency, cleverness, circumventions<sup>2</sup>, flatteries, hypo-<sup>2</sup> περι- crises, whatsoever else is similar to these. But ours are not <sup>δρομαλ</sup> of this sort: but of what kind are they?

*Mighty through God.*

And he said not, 'we are not carnal,' but, *our weapons*. For as I said, for the present he discourseth of the Preaching, and refers the whole power to God. And he says not, 'spiritual,' although this was the fitting opposite<sup>3</sup> to *carnal*, but *mighty*, in <sup>3</sup> τὸ πρὸς this implying the other also, and shewing that their<sup>4</sup> weapons <sup>ἀντιδια-στολήν</sup> are weak and powerless. And mark the absence of pride in <sup>4</sup> the him; for he said not, 'we are mighty,' but, *our weapons are* <sup>4</sup> the *mighty through God*. 'We did not make them such, but God <sup>Ἀπο-στές</sup> Himself.' For because they were scourged, were persecuted, and suffered wrongs incurable<sup>5</sup> without number, which things <sup>5</sup> ἀνῆκε- were proofs of weakness: to shew the strength of God, he <sup>στὰ</sup> says, *but they are mighty through God*. For this especially shews His strength, that by these things He gains the victory. So that even though we are encompassed with them, yet it is He that warreth and worketh by them. Then he goes through a long eulogium upon them, saying,

*To the pulling down of strong holds.* And lest when hearing of strong holds thou shouldest think of aught material<sup>6</sup>, <sup>6</sup> αἰσθη- <sup>τὸν</sup> he says,

HOMIL. Ver. 5. *Casting down imaginations.*

XXI.

First giving emphasis by the figure, and then by this additional expression declaring the spiritual<sup>1</sup> character of the warfare. For these strongholds besiege souls, not bodies. Whence they are stronger than the others, and therefore also the weapons they require are mightier. But by strongholds he means the Grecian pride, and the strength of their sophisms and their syllogisms. But nevertheless, 'these weapons,' he says, '*confounded every thing that stood up against them; for they cast down imaginations,*

*And every high thing that exalleth itself against the knowledge of God.'* He persisted in the metaphor that he might make the emphasis greater. 'For though there should be strongholds,' he saith, 'though fortifications, though any other thing soever, they yield and give way before these weapons.'

*And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.* And yet the name, *captivity*, hath an ill sound with it; for it is the destruction of liberty. Wherefore then has he used it? With a meaning of its own, in regard to another point. For the word *captivity* conveys two ideas, the loss of liberty, and the being so violently overpowered, as not to rise up again. It is therefore in respect to this second meaning that he took it. As

<sup>2</sup> Cor. 11, 8. when he shall say, *I robbed other churches*, he does not intend the taking stealthily, but the stripping and taking their all, so also here in saying, *bringing into captivity*. For the fight was not equally maintained, but he conquered with great ease. Wherefore he did not say, 'we conquer and have the better,' only; but 'we even bring *into captivity*;' just as above, he did not say, 'we advance engines against the *strongholds*;' but, 'we cast them down, for great is the superiority of our weapons.' 'For we war not with words,' he saith, 'but with deeds against words, not with fleshly wisdom, but with the spirit of meekness and of power. How was it likely then I should hunt after honour, and boast in words, and threaten by letters;' (as they accused him, saying, *his letters are weighty*,) 'when our might lay not in these things?' But having said, *bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*, because the name of *captivity*

was unpleasant, he presently afterwards put an end to the <sup>2 COR.</sup> metaphor, saying, *unto the obedience of Christ*: from slavery <sup>X. 6.</sup> unto liberty, from death unto life, from destruction to salvation. For we came not merely to strike down, but to bring over to the truth those who are opposed to us.

[3.] Ver. 6. *And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Here he alarmed these<sup>1</sup> also, not those<sup>2</sup> alone: ‘for,’<sup>1</sup> the  
says he, ‘we are waiting for you, that when by our exhort-<sup>Corin-</sup>  
ations and threatenings we have reformed you, and purged<sup>2</sup> the  
and separated you from their fellowship; then, when those<sup>false</sup> <sup>Apostles</sup>  
only are left who are incurably diseased, we may visit with  
punishment, after we see that you have really<sup>3</sup> separated<sup>3 γνησίως</sup>  
from them. For even now indeed ye obey, but not perfectly.’  
‘And yet if thou hadst done it now,’ saith one, ‘thou  
wouldest have wrought greater gain.’ ‘By no means, for if I  
had done it now, I should have involved you also in the  
punishment. Howbeit it behoved to punish them, indeed,  
but to spare you. Yet if I spared, I should have seemed to  
do it out of favour: now this I do not desire, but first to  
amend you, and then to proceed against them.’ What can  
be tenderer than the bowels of the Apostle? who because he  
saw his own mixed up with aliens, desires indeed to inflict  
the blow, but forbears, and restrains his indignation until  
those shall have withdrawn, that he may smite these alone;  
yea rather, not these even. For he therefore threatens this,  
and says he is desirous to separate unto punishment them alone,  
that they also being amended by the fear may change, and he  
let loose his anger against no one. For just like a most excel-  
lent physician, and common father, and patron, and guardian<sup>4</sup>,<sup>4 κηδε-</sup>  
so did he all things, so cared he for all, removing all impe-<sup>μῶν</sup>  
diments, checking the pestilent, busily running about every  
whither. For not by fighting did he so achieve the work, but  
advancing as if to a ready and an easy victory, he planted  
his trophies, undermining, casting down, overthrowing the  
strongholds of the devil, and the engines of the demons; and  
carried over their whole booty to the camp of Christ. Nor  
did he even take breath a little, bounding off from these  
to those, and from those again to others, like some very  
able general, raising trophies every day, or rather every

HOMIL.  
 XXI.  
 ἡ χιτῶν  
 νίσκου
 
 hour. For having entered into the battle with nothing but a little tunic<sup>1</sup>, the tongue of Paul took the cities of his enemies with their men, and bows, and spears, and darts, and all.

For he spake only; and, falling upon his enemies more fiercely than any fire, his words drave out the devils, and brought over unto him the men that were possessed of them.

See Acts  
 19, 19.
 
 For when at last he cast out that evil demon, fifty thousand sorcerers coming together burnt their books of magic, and revolted to the truth. And like as in a war, when a tower has fallen, or a tyrant been brought low, all his partizans cast away their arms, and run unto the [opposing] general; so truly did it happen then also. For when the demon was cast out, they all having been besieged, and having cast away, yea rather having destroyed, their books,
   

<sup>2</sup> παρα-  
 ταπτόμε-  
 νος
 
 ran unto the feet of Paul. But he setting himself<sup>2</sup> against the whole world, as though against a single army, no where stayed his march, but did all things as if he were some man
   

<sup>3</sup> ὑπόπ-  
 τερος
 
 endued with wings<sup>3</sup>: and now restored a lame, now raised a dead man, now blinded a third, (I mean the sorcerer,) nor even when shut up in a prison indulged in rest, but even there brought over to himself the jailor, effecting the goodly captivity we treat of.

- (4.) [4.] Let us then also imitate him after our power. And why do I say, after our power? For he that wills may come even near unto him, and behold his valour, and imitate his heroism. For still he is doing this work, *casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.* And although many heretics have attempted to cut him in pieces; yet still, even though dismembered, he displayeth a mighty strength. For both Marcion and Manichæus use him indeed, but after cutting him in pieces; but still even so they are refuted by the several members. For even a hand only of this champion being found among them, puts them utterly to the rout; and a foot only, left amongst others, pursues and prostrates them, in order that thou mayest learn the superabundance of his power, and that, although shorn of his limbs even, he is able to destroy all his adversaries. ‘This however,’ saith one, ‘is an instance of perversion, that those, who are battling with each other, should all use him.’ An instance of perversion certainly,



but not in Paul, (God forbid,) but in them who use him. <sup>2 COR.</sup>  
 For he was not parti-coloured<sup>1</sup>, but uniform and clear, but <sup>X. 6.</sup>  
 they perverted his words to their own notions. 'And where-<sup>1</sup> ποικί-  
 fore,' saith one, 'were they so spoken as to give handles to λος τις  
 those that wished for them?' He did not give handles, but  
 their frenzy used his words not rightly; since this whole  
 world also is both wonderful and great, and a sure proof of  
 the wisdom of God, and *the heavens declare the glory of* <sup>Ps. 19,</sup>  
*God, and day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night* <sup>1. 2.</sup>  
*declareth knowledge*; but nevertheless, many have stumbled  
 at it, and in contrary directions to one another. And some  
 have admired it so much above its worth, as to think it  
 God; whilst others have been so insensible of its beauty as to  
 have asserted it to be unworthy of God's creating hand<sup>2</sup>, and <sup>δημιουργίας</sup>  
 to have ascribed the greater share in it to a certain evil  
 matter. And yet God had provided for the safety<sup>3</sup> of both, <sup>3</sup>σφαλ-  
 by making it beautiful and great, that it might not be <sup>λατο</sup>  
 deemed alien from his wisdom; yet defective and not suffi-  
 cient unto itself, that it might not be suspected to be God.  
 But nevertheless, those who were blinded by their own  
 reasonings fell away into contradictory notions, refuting one  
 another, and becoming each the other's accuser, and vindic-  
 ating the wisdom of God even by the very reasonings which  
 led them astray. And why do I speak of the sun and the  
 heaven? The Jews saw so many marvels happen before  
 their eyes, yet straightway worshipped a calf. Again they  
 saw Christ casting out devils, yet called him one that  
 had a devil. But this was no imputation against him that  
 cast them out, but an accusation of their understanding who  
 were so blinded. Condemn not then Paul either, on account  
 of their judgment who have used him amiss; but understand  
 well the treasures in him, and develop his riches, so shalt  
 thou make noble stand against all, fenced by his armour.  
 So shalt thou be able to stop the mouths both of Greeks and  
 Jews. 'And how,' saith one, 'seeing they believe him not?' By  
 the things wrought through him, by the reformation effected  
 in the world. For it was not of human power that so great  
 things could be done, but the Might of the Crucified,  
 breathing on him, made him such as he was, and shewed him  
 more powerful than orators, and philosophers, and tyrants,



HOMIL.  
XXI. and kings, and all men. He was not only able to arm himself and to strike down his adversaries, but to make others also such as himself. Therefore in order that we may become useful both to ourselves and to others, let us continually have him in our hands, using his writings for a meadow and garden of delight<sup>c</sup>. For so shall we be able both to be delivered from vice, and to choose virtue, and to obtain the promised good things, whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, with the Holy Spirit, be glory, might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

<sup>a</sup> ἀντὶ λειμῶνος καὶ παραδείσου ἐντρυφῶντες.

## HOMILY XXII.

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### 2 COR. X. 7.

*Ye look on things after the outward appearance. If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that as he is Christ's, even so are we.*

WHAT one may especially admire in Paul amongst other things is this, that when he has fallen upon an urgent necessity for exalting himself, he manages both to accomplish this point, and also not to appear offensive to the many on account of this egotism; a thing we may see particularly in his Epistle to the Galatians. For having there fallen upon such an argument, he provides for both these points; a matter of the very utmost difficulty, and demanding much prudence; he is at once modest, and says somewhat great of himself. And observe how in this place also he makes it of great account, *Ye look on things after the outward appearance*. Behold here also prudence. For having rebuked those that deceived them, he confined not his remarks to them, but he leaps away from them to these too; and he does so constantly. For, in truth, he scourgeth not those only that lead astray<sup>1</sup>, but the deceived also. For had<sup>1</sup> παρὰ κρονομένων he let even them go without calling them to an account<sup>2</sup>, they ἀνευθύνοys. would not so easily have been reformed by what was said to the others; but would have been greatly elated even, as not being amenable to accusations. Therefore he scourgeth them also. And this is not all that is to be admired in him, but this further, that he rebukes either party in a manner suitable to each. Hear at least what he says to these, *Ye*

HOMIL. XXII. *look on things after the outward appearance.* The accusation is no light one; but a mark of men exceedingly easy to be deceived. Now what he says is this, ‘ye test by what appear, by things carnal, by things bodily.’ What is meant by ‘what appear?’ If one is rich, if one is puffed up, if one is surrounded by many flatterers, if one says great things of himself, if one is vain-glorious, if one makes a pretence of virtue without having virtue, for this is the meaning of, *ye look on things after the outward appearance.*

*If any man trust to himself that he is Christ’s, let him of himself think this again, that as he is Christ’s, even so am I Christ’s.* For he does not wish to be vehement at the beginning, but he increases and draws to a head<sup>1</sup> by little and little. But observe here how much harshness and covert meaning there is. He shews this by using the words of *himself*. For he saith, ‘Let him not wait to learn this from us; that is, by our rebuke of himself,’ but *let him of himself think this, that as he is Christ’s, so are we also*; not that he was Christ’s in such manner as the other was, but, *that as he is Christ’s, even so am I Christ’s.* Thus far the community holds good: for it is not surely the case that he indeed is Christ’s, but I some other’s. Then having laid down this equality between them, he goes on to add wherein he exceeded, saying,

Ver. 8. *For though I should boast even more of the authority which the Lord hath given me for edification, and not for destruction, I should not be ashamed.*

For since he was going to say somewhat great, observe how he softens it. For nothing doth so offend the majority of hearers, as for any one to praise himself. Wherefore to cut at the root of this offensiveness, he says, *For though I should boast even somewhat more.* And he did not say, ‘if any man trust that he is Christ’s, let him think that he is far short of us. For I possess much authority from Him, so as to punish and to kill whomsoever I choose;’ but what? *For though I should boast even somewhat more.* And yet he possessed more than can be told, but nevertheless, he lowers it in his way of speaking. And he said not, ‘I boast,’ but, *if I should boast*, if I should choose to do so: at once both shewing modesty, and declaring his superiority.

<sup>1</sup> κορυ-  
φούται

If therefore he says, *I should boast of the authority which the Lord hath given me.* Again, he ascribes the whole to Him, and makes the gift common. *For edification, and not for destruction.* Seest thou how again he allays the envy his praises might give rise to, and draws the hearer over to himself by mentioning the use for which he received it? Then why doth he say, *Casting down imaginations?* Because this is itself an especial form of edification, the removing of hindrances, and detecting the unsound, and laying the true together in the building. For this end therefore we received it, that we might edify. But if any should spar, and battle with us, and be incurable, we will use that other power also, destroying<sup>1</sup> and overthrowing him. <sup>1</sup> Or, Wherefore also he says, *I shall not be ashamed,* that is, I shall not be proved a liar or a boaster. <sup>casting down</sup>

[2.] Ver. 9, 10, 11. *But that I may not seem as if I would terrify you: for his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful: but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. Let such an one think this, that such as we are by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.*

What he says is this: 'I could boast indeed, but that they may not say the same things again, to wit, that I boast in my letters, and am contemptible when present, I will say nothing great.' And yet afterwards he did say something great, but not about this power by which he was formidable, but about revelations, and at greater length about trials. 'Therefore, that I may not seem to be terrifying you, let such an one think this, that such as we are by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.' For since they said, 'he writes great things of himself, but when he is present, he is worthy of no consideration,' therefore he says these things, and those again in a moderated form. For he did not say, 'as we write great things, so when we are present we also do great things,' but in more subdued phrase. For when he addressed himself to the others indeed, he stated it with vehemency, saying, *I beseech you that I may not be bold, when I am present, with that confidence wherewith I think to be bold against some:* but when to these, he is more subdued. And therefore he says, 'as we are when present,

HOMIL. such too when absent, that is, lowly, modest, no where  
XXII. boasting. And it is plain from what follows,

(2.) Ver. 12. *For we dare not make ourselves of the number,*

<sup>1</sup> R. T. *or compare in ourselves<sup>1</sup> with some that commend themselves.*

compare  
our-  
selves. Here he both shews those false Apostles to be boasters, and to say great things of themselves: and ridicules them as commending themselves. 'But we do no such thing: but even if we shall do any thing great, we refer all unto God, and compare ourselves with one another. Wherefore also he added,

*But they measuring themselves by themselves; and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.* Now what he says is this: 'we do not compare ourselves with

cap. 12, them, but with one another.' For further on he says, in

11. *nothing am I behind the very chiefest Apostles;* and in the

1 Cor. 15, 10. *former Epistle, I laboured more abundantly than they all;*

cap. 12, and again, *Truly the signs of an Apostle were wrought*

12. *among you in all patience.* 'So that we compare ourselves with ourselves, not with those that have nothing: for such arrogance cometh of folly.' Either then he says this with reference to himself, or with reference to them, that 'we dare not compare ourselves with those who contend with one another, and boast great things, and do not understand:' that is, do not perceive how ridiculous they are in being thus arrogant, and in exalting themselves amongst one another.

Ver. 13. *But we will not boast of things without our measure:* as they do.

For it is probable that in their boasting they said, 'we have converted the world, we have reached unto the ends of the earth,' and vented many other such like big words. 'But not so we,' he says,

*But according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.* So that his humility is evident on either hand, both in that he boasted nothing more than he had wrought, and that he refers even this itself to God. For, *according to the measure of the rule,* saith he, *which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you.* Just as if portioning out a vine to husbandmen, even so hath He meted out unto us. As far then as we have been counted worthy to attain to, so far we boast.



Ver. 14. *For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we had but come unto you : for we came as far as to you also in preaching the Gospel of Christ.* 2 COR. <sup>X.</sup> 14—17.

Not simply ‘we have come to,’ but, ‘we have announced, we have preached, we have persuaded, we have succeeded.’ For it is probable that they even from having merely come to the disciples of the Apostles, ascribed the whole to themselves, from their bare presence among them. ‘But not so we : nor can any one say, that we were not able to come as far as to you, and that we have stretched our boasting as far as to you in words only ; for we have also preached the Gospel to you.’

[3.] Ver. 15, 16. *Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men’s labours, but having hope, when your faith is increased ; that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly ; to preach the Gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s rule of things made ready to our hand.*

He sets forth a large accusation of them on these grounds, both that they boasted of things without their measure, and of other men’s labours ; and that whilst the whole of the toil was the Apostles’, they plumed themselves upon<sup>1</sup> their labours. ‘But we,’ says he, ‘shewed these things in our deeds. We will not imitate those men therefore, but will say such things where our deeds may bear us witness. And why,’ saith he, ‘do I say, you?’ *for I have hope that when your faith is increased ;* for he doth not assert absolutely, preserving his own character, but, ‘I hope,’ he says, ‘if you make progress, that our rule will be extended even farther, *to preach the Gospel in the regions beyond.*’ ‘For we shall advance farther yet,’ he says, ‘so as to preach and labour, not so as to boast in words of what other men have laboured.’ And well did he call it *rule and measure*, as though he had come into possession of the world, and a rich inheritance ; and shewing that the whole was wholly God’s. ‘Having then such works,’ he says, ‘and expecting greater, we do not boast, as they do who have nothing, nor do we ascribe any part to ourselves, but the whole to God. Wherefore also he adds,

Ver. 17. *He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*

HOMIL. This also, he saith, accrue to us from God.

XXII.

Ver. 18. *For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.*

He did not say, we are so, *but whom the Lord commendeth*. Seest thou how modestly he speaks? But if, as he proceeds, he stirreth up loftier words, wonder not, for this also cometh of Paul's prudence. For if he had gone on in every part to speak lowly words, he would not have hit these men so effectually, nor have extricated the disciples from their error. For it is possible both by modesty ill-timed to do harm, and by saying something admirable of one's self at a proper time, to do good. As therefore he also did. For there was no little danger, in the disciples being persuaded into any mean opinion of Paul. Not that Paul sought the glory that cometh of men. For had he sought this, he would not have kept silence so long on those great  
c. 12, 2. and marvellous matters of *fourteen years ago*; nor would he, when necessity was laid upon him, have so shrunk back and hesitated to speak of them; very evidently he would not even then have spoken, had he not been strongly necessitated to it. Certainly then it was not from a desire after the glory, which cometh from men, that he said these things, but out of tender care for the disciples. For since they cast  
<sup>1</sup> ἐβαλ- reproaches<sup>1</sup> at him as a braggart, and as boastful in words, λον but as able to shew nothing in deeds, he is compelled subsequently to come to those revelations. Although he had it in his power to have convinced them by his deeds, at the time when he said these things: yet he still persists, nevertheless, in using menaces in words. For he was most especially free from vain-glory; and this his whole life proves, both before and after this. For instance, it was because of this, that he changed all at once; and having changed, confounded the Jews, and cast away all that honour he had from them, although he was himself their head and their champion. But he considered none of those things when he had found the truth; but took instead their insults and contumely; for he looked to the salvation of the many, thinking this every thing. For he that thinketh nothing of hell nor of heaven, nor of ten thousand worlds in regard of his longing after Christ, how should he hunt after

the glory which cometh from the many? By no means; but <sup>2 Cor. X. 18.</sup> he is even very lowly when he may be so, and brands<sup>1</sup> his <sup>1 στή-</sup> former life with infamy, when as he calls himself, *a blas-* <sup>λιτεύει</sup> *phemer, and a persecutor, and injurious.* And his disciple <sup>1 Tim. 1, 13.</sup> Luke too says many things of him, evidently having learnt them from himself, himself displaying fully<sup>2</sup> his former life <sup>2 ἐμπομ- πευοντος</sup> no less than that after his conversion.

[4.] Now I say these things, not that we may hear merely, (3.) but that we may learn also. For if he remembered those transgressions before the Laver, although they were all effaced, what forgiveness can we have who are unmindful of those after the Laver ourselves? What sayest thou, O man? Thou hast offended God, and dost thou forget? This is a second offence, a second enmity. Of what sins then dost thou ask forgiveness? Of those which thou even knowest not thyself? Surely, (for is it not so?) thou art deeply anxious and thoughtful, how thou mayest give account of them, thou who dost not so much as care to remember them, but sportest with what is no sporting matter. But there will come a time, when our sport can go on no longer. For we must needs die: (for the great insensibility of the many obliges me to speak even of things that are evident:) and must needs rise again, and be judged, and be punished; nay rather this needs not, if we choose. For those other things are not at our own disposal; neither our end, nor our resurrection, nor our judgment, but at our Lord's; but our suffering punishment or not is at our own disposal; for this is of those things that may or may not happen<sup>3</sup>. But, if we choose, we shall make <sup>3 τῶν ἐν- δεχομέ- νων.</sup> it of the number of impossible things; just as Paul, as Peter, as all the saints did; for it is even impossible for them to be punished. If therefore we have a mind, it is in like manner impossible also that we should suffer ought. For even if we have offended in ten thousand things, it is possible to recover ourselves so long as we are here. Let us then recover ourselves: and let the old man consider, that in a little while hence he will depart, when as he took his pleasure long enough in his manhood; (although what sort of pleasure is this, to live in wickedness? but for the present I so speak in respect to his way of thinking;) let him consider, besides, that it is possible for him in a short time to wash away all.

HOMIL. The young man again, let him also consider the uncertainty  
XXII. of death, and that oftentimes, when many older persons have

<sup>1</sup> *πραγματευώ-μεθα.*  
Ecclus. 5, 7.  
Prov. 27, 1. them. For, for this reason, that we may not make traffic <sup>1</sup> of our death, it is left in uncertainty. Wherefore also a certain wise man adviseth, saying, *Make no tarrying to turn unto the Lord, and put not off from day to day: for thou knowest not what to-morrow shall bring forth.* For by

putting off, there is danger and fear; but by not putting off, manifest and secure salvation. Hold fast then by virtue. For so, even if thou have departed young, thou hast departed in safety; and if thou have come to old age, thou shalt arrive [at death] with great provision made, and shalt have a double feast all thy life long; both in that thou abstainest from vice, and layest hold on virtue. Say not, 'there will come a time when it may be well to turn,' for this language provokes God exceedingly. And why so? Because He hath promised thee countless ages, but thou art not even willing to labour during this present life, this short life that dureth but a season; but art so indolent and unmanly as to seek a shorter even than this. Are there not the same revellings daily? Are there not the same tables, the same harlots, the same theatres, the same wealth? How long wilt thou love those things as though they were aught? How long will thy appetite for evil remain insatiate? Consider that as often as thou hast fornicated, so often hast thou condemned thyself. For such is the nature of sin: once committed, the Judge hath also passed his sentence. Hast thou been drunken, been gluttonous, or robbed? Hold now, turn right back, acknowledge it to God as a mercy, that He snatched thee not away in

<sup>2</sup> *προθεσμίαν* the midst of thy sins; seek not yet another set time <sup>2</sup> wherein to work evil. Many have been snatched away in the midst of their covetousness, and have departed to manifest punishment. Fear lest thou also shouldest suffer this, and without excuse. 'But God hath given to many a set time for confession in extreme old age.' What then? Will He give it to thee also? 'Perhaps He will,' says one. Why sayest thou 'perhaps,' and 'sometimes,' and 'often?' Consider that thou art deliberating about thy soul, and put also the contrary case, and calculate, and say, 'But what if He should not give

it?' 'But what if He should give it?' saith he. God hath indeed given it; but still this supposition is safer and more profitable than that. For if thou begin now, thou hast gained all, whether thou hast a set time granted thee or not; but if thou art always putting off, for this very cause perhaps thou shalt not have one given thee. When thou goest out to battle, thou dost not say, 'there is no need to make my will, perhaps I shall come back safe;' nor dost thou when deliberating about marriage, say, 'suppose I take a poor wife, many have even in this way got rich contrary to expectation;' nor when building a house, 'suppose I lay a rotten foundation, many houses have stood even so;' yet in deliberating about the soul, thou leanest on things more rotten still; urging thy 'perhaps,' and 'often,' and 'sometimes,' and trustest thyself to these uncertainties. 'Nay,' saith one, 'not to an uncertainty, but to the mercy of God, for God is merciful.' I know it too; but still this merciful God snatched those away, of whom I spoke. And what if after thou hast had time given thee, thou shalt still continue as thou wert? for this sort of man will be listless even in old age. 'Nay,' he saith, 'not so.' For this mode of reasoning even after the eighty years desireth ninety, and after the ninety an hundred, and after the hundred will be yet more indisposed to act. And so the whole of life will have been consumed in vain, and what was spoken of the Jews will happen also to thee; *Their days were consumed in vanity.* And would that in vanity only, and not unto evil also. For when we have departed thither, bearing the heavy burden of our sins, this will be unto evil also. For we shall carry away fuel for the fire, and a plentiful feast for the worm. Wherefore I pray and conjure you, to hold at length in noble wise, and to depart from wickedness, that we may also obtain the promised good things: whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, together with the Holy Spirit, be glory, might, honour, now and ever, and world without end. Amen.

2 COR.  
X. 18.

Ps. 78,  
33.



## H O M I L Y    XXIII.

2 CoR. xi. 1.

*Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly;  
and indeed ye do bear with me.*

BEING about to enter upon his own praises, he uses much previous correction. And he does this not once or twice, although the necessity of the subject, and what he had often said, were sufficient excuse for him. For he that remembereth sins, which God remembered not; and who therefore saith that he was unworthy of the very name of the Apostles, even by the most insensate is seen clearly, not to be saying what he is now going to say, for the sake of glory. For, if I must say something startling, even this would be most especially injurious to his glory, his speaking something about himself; and to the more part it is offensive. But nevertheless he regarded not timidly any of these things, but he looked to one thing, the salvation of his hearers. But still in order that he might not cause harm to the unthinking by this, by saying, I mean, great things of himself, he employs out of superfluous caution these many preparatory correctives, and says, *Would that ye could bear with me*, whilst I play the fool in some little things, yea rather, *ye do also bear with me*. Beholdest thou wisdom? For when he says, *would that*, it is as putting it at their disposal: but when he even asserts [that they do], it is as confiding greatly in their love, and as declaring that he both loves, and is loved. Yea, rather, not from bare love merely, but from a sort of warm and insane passion, he says that they ought to bear with him even when he plays

the fool. And therefore he added, *For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy*<sup>1</sup>. He did not say, 'for I love you,' <sup>2 COR. XI. 2.</sup> <sup>1 GR.</sup> but uses a term far more vehement than this. For those souls are jealous which burn ardently for those they love, <sup>jealousy of God.</sup> and jealousy can in no other way be begotten, than out of a vehement affection. Then that they may not think, that it is for the sake of power, or honour, or wealth, or any other such like thing, that he desires their affection, he added, *with a jealousy of God*. For God also is said to be jealous, not that any should suppose <sup>2</sup> passion, (for the Godhead is impassible,) but <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>32</sup> <sup>33</sup> <sup>34</sup> <sup>35</sup> <sup>36</sup> <sup>37</sup> <sup>38</sup> <sup>39</sup> <sup>40</sup> <sup>41</sup> <sup>42</sup> <sup>43</sup> <sup>44</sup> <sup>45</sup> <sup>46</sup> <sup>47</sup> <sup>48</sup> <sup>49</sup> <sup>50</sup> <sup>51</sup> <sup>52</sup> <sup>53</sup> <sup>54</sup> <sup>55</sup> <sup>56</sup> <sup>57</sup> <sup>58</sup> <sup>59</sup> <sup>60</sup> <sup>61</sup> <sup>62</sup> <sup>63</sup> <sup>64</sup> 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HOMIL. for His Son, and prophets from of old saying, *Hearken, O XXIII. daughter, and consider, and forget thine own people and thy Ps. 45, father's house, and the King shall desire thy beauty.* Seest 10. 11. thou the prophet also espousing? seest thou the Apostle too expressing the same thing himself with much boldness, and saying, *I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ?* Seest thou wisdom again? For having said, 'Ye ought to bear with me,' he did not say, 'for I am your teacher, and I speak not for mine own sake:' but he uses this expression which invested them with especial dignity, placing himself in the room of her who promotes a match, and them in the rank of the bride; and he adds these words;

Ver. 3. *But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is [in you] towards Christ\*.*

'For although the destruction be yours [alone], yet is the sorrow mine as well.' And consider his wisdom. For he does not assert, although they were corrupted; and so he c. x. 6. shewed, when he said, *When your obedience is fulfilled, and c. xii. 21. I shall bewail many which have sinned already;* but still he does not leave them to get shameless. And therefore he says, *lest at any time.* For this neither condemns, nor is silent; for neither course were safe, neither to speak out plainly, nor to conceal perpetually. Therefore he employs this middle form, saying, *lest at any time.* For this is neither the language of one that entirely distrusts, nor entirely relies on them, but of one who stands between these two. In this way then he palliated, but by his mention of that history threw them into an indescribable terror; and cuts them off from all forgiveness. For even although the serpent was malignant, and she senseless, yet did none of these things snatch the woman from punishment. 'Beware then,' he says, 'lest such be your fate, and there be nought to screen you. For he too promising greater things, so deceived.' (2.) Whence it is plain that these<sup>1</sup> too, by boasting and puffing themselves up, deceived. And this may be conjectured not from this place only, but also from what he says afterwards,

Ver. 4. *If he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom*

\* Such seems to be St. Chrysostom's rendering. See below.

<sup>1</sup> i. e. false Apostles

*we have not preached, or if ye receive another Spirit which* <sup>2 Cor.</sup>  
*ye have not received, or another Gospel which ye have not* <sup>XI. 4.</sup>  
*accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

And he does not say, 'Lest by any means as Adam was deceived:' but shews that those men<sup>1</sup> are but women who are<sup>1</sup> <sup>γυναῖ-  
κας ὄν-  
τας τοὺς</sup> thus abused, for it is the part of women to be deceived. And he did not say, 'so ye also should be deceived:' but keeping up the metaphor, he says, *so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is [in you] towards Christ.* 'From the simplicity, I say, not from wickedness; neither out of wickedness [is it], nor out of your not believing, but out of simplicity.' But, nevertheless, not even under such circumstances are the deceived entitled to forgiveness, as Eve shewed. But, if this does not entitle to forgiveness, much more will it not do so, when through vain-glory any is so<sup>2</sup>. <sup>2 i e. is  
deceived</sup>

[2.] *For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus whom we have not preached:* shewing hereby that their deceivers were not Corinthians, but persons from some other quarter previously corrupted: wherefore he saith, *he that cometh.*

*If ye receive another Spirit, if another Gospel which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.* What sayest thou? Thou that saidst to the Galatians, *If any preach another Gospel to you than that ye have received, let him be accursed;* dost thou now say, *ye might well bear with him?* And yet on this account it were meet not to bear with, but to recoil, from them; but if they say the same things, it is meet to bear with them. How then dost thou say, 'because they say the same things, it is not meet to bear with them?' for he says, 'if they said other things, it were meet to bear with them.' Let us then give good heed, for the danger is great, and the precipice deep, if men run past this carelessly; and what is here said giveth an entrance to all the heresies. What then is the sense of these words? Those persons so boasted as if the Apostles taught incompletely, and they were introducing somewhat more than they. For it is probable that with much idle talk, they were bringing in senseless rubbish, so as to overlay these doctrines. And therefore he made mention of the serpent and of Eve, who was thus deceived by the expectation of acquiring more. And alluding to this in the former Epistle also, he said,



HOMIL. XXIII. *Now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us; and again, we are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ.* Since then it was probable, that using the wisdom which is without, they talked much idly, what he says is this: that 'if these persons said any thing more, and preached another Christ, who ought to have been preached, but we omitted it, *ye might well bear with them.*' For on this account he added, *whom we have not preached.* 'But if the chief points of the faith are the same, what have ye the more of them? for whatsoever things they may say, they will say nothing more than what we have said.' And observe with what precision he states the case. For he did not say, 'if he that cometh saith any thing more;' for they did say something more, haranguing with more consequence, and with much beauty of language; wherefore he did not say this, but what? [If] *he that cometh preacheth another Jesus*, a thing which had no need of that array of words: *or receive another Spirit*, (for neither was there need of words in this case either;) that is to say, 'makes you richer in grace;' or *another Gospel which ye have not accepted*, (nor did this again stand in need of words,) *ye might well bear with him.* But consider, I pray thee, how he every where uses such a definition as shews that nothing very great, nor indeed any thing more, had been introduced by them. For when he had said, *If he that cometh preacheth another Jesus*, he added, *whom we have not preached*; and *ye receive another Spirit*, he subjoined, *whom ye have not received*; or *another Gospel*, he added, *which ye have not accepted*, by all these shewing that it is meet to attend to them, not simply if they say something more, but, if they said any thing more which ought to have been said, and was by us omitted. But if it ought not to have been said, and was therefore not said by us; or if they say only the same things as we, why gape ye so admiringly<sup>1</sup> upon them? 'And yet if they say the same things,' saith one, 'wherefore dost thou hinder them?' Because that, using hypocrisy, they introduce strange doctrines. This however for the present he doth not say, but afterwards asserts it, when he says, *They transform themselves into the Apostles of Christ*; for the present he withdraws the disciples from their authority by less offensive considerations; and

<sup>1</sup> κεχῆ-  
νατε.  
(3.)



this not out of envy to them, but to secure these. Else why <sup>2 Cor. XI. 6.</sup> does he not hinder Apollos, who was, however, an *eloquent* <sup>Acts 18,</sup> *man, and mighty in the Scriptures*; but even beseeches <sup>24.</sup> him, and promises he will send him? Because together with <sup>1 Cor. 16, 12.</sup> his learning he preserved also the integrity of the doctrines; but with these it was the reverse. And therefore he wars with them, and blames the disciples for gaping admiringly upon them, saying, 'if aught that should have been said we omitted, and they supplied, we do not hinder you from giving heed to them: but if all has been fully completed by us, and nothing left deficient, whence is it that they caught you?' Wherefore also he adds,

Ver. 5. *For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest Apostles*, no longer making comparison of himself with them, but with Peter and the rest. 'So that if they know more than I do, [they know more] than they also.' And observe how here also he shews modesty. For he did not say, 'the Apostles said nothing more than I,' but what? *I suppose*, so I deem, *that I am not a whit behind the very chiefest Apostles*. For since this also appeared to bespeak an inferiority in him, that those, having preceded him, were of greater name; and more respect was entertained for them, and these persons were intending to foist themselves in; therefore he makes this comparison of himself with them, with the dignity<sup>1</sup> that becomes him. Therefore he also <sup>1</sup>σχήμα-<sup>τος.</sup> mentions them with encomiums, not speaking simply of *the Apostles*, but *the very chiefest*, meaning Peter, and James, and John.

[3.] Ver. 6. *But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge.*

For since those that corrupted the Corinthians had the advantage in this, that they were not rude; he mentions this also, shewing that he was not ashamed of, but even prided himself upon it. And he said not, *But though I be rude in speech*, yet so also are they<sup>2</sup>, for this would have seemed to <sup>2</sup>i. e. be accusing them as well as himself, and exalting these: <sup>Peter &c.</sup> but he overthrows the thing itself, this of the wisdom from without. And indeed in his former Epistle he contends even vehemently about this thing, saying, that it not only contributes nothing to the Preaching, but it even throws a shadow on the glory of the Cross; for he says, *I came not* <sup>1</sup>Cor. <sup>2, 1.</sup>

HOMIL. with excellency of speech or of wisdom unto you, lest the  
 XXIII. cross of Christ should be made of none effect; and many  
 1 Cor. other things of the same kind; because in knowledge they were  
 1, 17. rude, which is also the extremest form of rudeness.

When therefore it was necessary to institute a comparison in those things which were great, he compares himself with the Apostles: but when to shew that which appeared to be a deficiency, he no longer does this, but grapples with the thing itself, and shews that it was a superiority. And when indeed no necessity urged him, he says that he is even *the least of the Apostles*, and not worthy even of the title; but here again, when occasion called, he says, that he is *not a whit behind the very chiefest Apostles*. For he knew that this would most advantage the disciples. Wherefore also he adds,

*But we have been thoroughly made manifest among you in all things.* For here again he accuses the false Apo-

c. iv. 2. stles as *walking in craftiness*. And he has said this of himself before also, that he did not live after the outward  
 ibid. appearance, nor preach, *handling the word deceitfully*, and corrupting it. But those men were one thing, and appeared another. But not so he. Wherefore also he every

where assumes a high tone, as doing nothing with a view to men's opinion, nor concealing aught about himself. As he  
 ibid. also said before, *by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience*, so now again he saith, *thoroughly made manifest among you*. But what does this mean? 'We are rude,' he said, 'and do not conceal it:

we receive from some persons, and we do not keep it secret. We receive then from you, and we pretend not that we do not receive, as these do when they receive, but we make every thing that we do manifest unto you;' which was the conduct of one that both had exceeding confidence in them, and told them every thing truly. Wherefore he also calls them witnesses, saying now, *in all things among you*, and also before, *For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge*.

cap. i.  
13.

[4.] Then after he had defended his own conduct, he goes on next to say with severity,

Ver. 7. *Have I committed an offence in abasing myself, that ye might be exalted?*

And in explanation of this, he adds,

2 Cor.

Ver. 8. *I robbed other churches, taking wages of them to do you service.*

XI. 7.

What he says is this; ‘I lived in straitness;’ for this is the force of *abasing myself*. ‘Can you then lay this to my charge? and do ye therefore lift up yourselves against me, because I abased myself by begging, by enduring straits, by suffering, by hungering, that ye might be exalted?’ And how were they exalted by his being in straits? They were more edified, and were not offended; which also might [well] be a very great accusation of them, and reproach of their weakness; that it was not possible in any other way to lead them on, but by first abasing himself. ‘Do ye then lay it to my charge, that I abased myself? But thereby ye were exalted.’ For since he said even above, that they accused him, for that when present he was base, and when absent bold, in defending himself he here strikes them again, saying, ‘this too was for your sakes.’

*I robbed other churches.* Here finally he speaks reproachfully, but his former words prevent these from seeming offensive; for he said, *Bear with me a little in my folly*: and before all his other achievements, makes this his first boast. For this worldly men look to especially, and on this also, those his adversaries also, greatly prided themselves. Therefore it is that he does not first enter on the subject of his perils, nor yet of his miracles, but on this of his contempt of money, because they prided themselves on this; and at the same time he also hints that they were wealthy. But what is to be admired in him is this, (4.) that when he had it to say, that he was even supported by his own hands, he did not say this; but says that which especially shamed them, and yet was no encomium on himself, namely, ‘I took from others.’ And he did not say *took*, but *robbed*, that is, ‘I stripped them bare, and made them poor.’ And what surely is greater, that it was not for superfluities, but for the use of his necessities, for when he says ‘wages,’ he means necessary subsistence. And, what is more grievous yet, *to do you service*. We preach to you; and when I ought to be supported by you, I have enjoyed this at others’ hands. The accusation is twofold, or rather threefold; that, when both living amongst them, and ministering

HOMIL. to them, and seeking necessary support, he had others  
XXIII. supplying his wants. Great the excess, of the one in negligence, of the other in zeal! For these sent to him even when at a great distance, and those did not even support him when amongst them.

[5.] Then because he had vehemently scourged them, he quietly again relaxes the vehemence of his rebuke, saying,

Ver. 9. *And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man.*

For he did not say, 'ye did not give to me,' but, 'I did not take,' for as yet he spares them. But, nevertheless, even in the subduedness of his language he covertly strikes them again, for the word, *present*, is exceedingly emphatic, and so is, *wanted*. For that they might not say, 'what matter then, if you had [enough]?' he added, *and wanted*.

*I was not chargeable to you.* Here again he hits them gently, as making such contributions reluctantly, as feeling them a burden. Then comes the reason also, full of accusation, and fraught with jealousy. Wherefore also he introduced it, not in the way of a leading point<sup>1</sup>, but as informing them whence and by whom he was supported, so as to stimulate them again, in an unsuspecting way, as to the point of almsgiving;

*For that which was lacking to me, he says, the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied.* Seest thou, how he provokes them again, by bringing forward those that had ministered to him? For inspiring them first with a desire of knowing who these could be, when he said, *I robbed other churches*; he then mentions them also by name; which would incite them also unto almsgiving. For he thus persuades those, who had been beaten [by them] in the matter of supporting the Apostle, not to be also beaten in the succour they gave to the poor. And he says this also in his Epistle to the Macedonians themselves, *For in my necessities ye sent unto me once and again, even in the beginning of the Gospel*; which point also was a very great commendation of them, that from the very beginning they shone forth. But observe how every where he mentions his *necessity*, and no where a superfluity. Now therefore by saying *present*, and *wanted*, he shewed that he ought to have been supported by the Corinthians; and by the words, *they supplied that which was*

<sup>1</sup> οὐ προ-  
ηγουμέ-  
ως.

Philipp.  
4, 16.15.



*lacking to me*, he shews that he did not so much as ask. 2 COR. XI. 10. And he assigns a reason which was not the real one. What then is this? That he had received from others; *for*, says he, *that which was lacking to me those that came supplied.* ‘For this reason,’ he says, ‘I was not chargeable; not because I had no confidence in you.’ And yet it is for this latter reason that he so acts, and he shews it in what follows next; but does not say it plainly, but throws it into shade<sup>1</sup>, leaving<sup>1</sup> συσ-  
κιδζει it to the conscience of his hearers. And he gives proof of it covertly himself in what follows next, by saying,

*And in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome, and so will I keep myself.* ‘For think not,’ says he, ‘that I say these things, that I may receive.’ Now the words, *so will I keep myself*, are severer, if he has not even yet confidence in them; but once for all had given up the idea of receiving aught from them. He shews, moreover, that they even considered this to be a burden; wherefore he said, *I have kept myself from being burdensome, and so will I keep myself.* He says this in his former Epistle also, *I have not* 1 COR. 9, *written this, that it should be so done unto me; for it were* 15. *better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.* And here again, *I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.*

[6.] Then, that he may not seem to speak these things for the sake of winning them on the better [to do this], he saith, Ver. 10. *As the truth of Christ is in me.*

‘Do not think that I therefore have spoken, that I may receive, that I may the rather draw you on: for,’ saith he, *as the truth is in me,*

*This boasting shall not be stopped in me by the regions of Achaia.* For that none should think again that he is grieved at this, or that he speaks these things in anger, he even calls the thing a *boasting*. And in his former Epistle too, he dressed it out<sup>2</sup> in like terms. 2 κατε-  
σκευ-  
αζειν For so that he may not wound them there either, he says, *What is my reward then? Verily that when I preach the Gospel, I may make the Gospel of Christ without charge.* 1 COR. 9, 18. And as he there calls it *reward*, so doth he here *boasting*, that they may not be excessively ashamed at what he said, as if he were asking, and they gave not to him. ‘For what, if even ye would give?’ saith he, ‘Yet I do not accept it.’



HOMIL. And the expression, *shall not be stopped*, is a metaphor  
 XXIII. taken from rivers, or from the report, as if running every where, of his receiving nothing. 'Ye stop not with your giving this my freedom of speech.' But he said not, 'ye stop not,' which would have been too<sup>1</sup> cutting, but it *shall not be stopped in the regions of Achaia*. This again was like giving them a fatal blow, and exceedingly apt to deject and pain them, since they were the only persons he refused [to take from]. 'For if he made that his boast, it were meet to make it so every where: but if he only does so among us, perchance this is owing to our weakness.' Lest therefore they should so reason and be dejected, see how he corrects this.

Ver. 11. *Wherefore? because I love you not? God knoweth.*

<sup>2</sup> ἐὺ απαλλάκτως. Quickly [is it done], and by an easy riddance<sup>2</sup>. But still, not even so did he rid them of those charges. For he neither said, 'ye are not weak,' nor yet, 'ye are strong;' but, *I love you*, which very greatly aggravated the accusation against them. For the not receiving from them, because they felt it an exceeding grievance, was a proof of special love toward them. So he acted in two contrary ways out of love; he both did receive, and did not receive: but this contrariety was on account of the disposition of the givers. And he did not say, 'I therefore do not take of you, because I exceedingly love you,' for this would have contained an accusation of their weakness, and have thrown them into distress; but he turned what he said to another reason. What then is this?

Ver. 12. *That I may cut off occasion from them that desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.*

For since this they sought earnestly, to find some handle against him, it is necessary to remove this also. For this is the one point on which they pique themselves. Therefore that they might not have any advantage whatever, it was necessary to set this right; for in other things they were inferior. For, as I have said, nothing doth so edify worldly people as the receiving nothing from them. Therefore the devil in his craftiness, dropped this bait especially, when desirous to injure them in other respects. But it appears to

<sup>1</sup> Or, 'more.'

<sup>2</sup> ἐὺ απαλλάκτως.

<sup>2</sup> σεμνύνονται.

me that this even was in hypocrisy. And therefore he did not <sup>2 COR. XI. 12.</sup> say, 'wherein they have well done,' but what? *wherein they glory*; which also was as jeering at their boasting; for they gloried also of that which they were not. But the man of noble spirit, not only ought not to boast of what he has not, but not even of what he possesses; as this blessed saint was wont to do, as the patriarch Abraham did, saying, *But I am* <sup>Gen. 18, 27.</sup> *earth and ashes*. For since he had no sins to speak of, but shone with good works; having run about in every direction, and found no very great handle against himself, he betakes himself to his nature; and since the name of *earth* is, in some way or other, one of dignity, he added to it that of *ashes*. Wherefore also another saith, *Why is earth and ashes* <sup>Eccles. 10, 9.</sup> *proud?*

[7.] For tell me not of the bloom of the countenance, nor of the uplifted neck, nor of the mantle, and the horse, and the followers; but reflect where all these things do end, and put that to them. But, and if thou tell me of what appears to the eye, I too will tell thee of things in pictures, brighter far than these. But as we do not admire those for their appearance, as seeing what their nature is, that all is clay; so therefore let us not these either, for these too are but clay. Yea rather, even before they are dissolved and become dust, shew me this uplifted [neck] a prey to fever, and gasping out life; and then will I discourse with thee, and will ask thee, What has become of all that profuse ornament? whither has that crowd of flatterers vanished, that attendance of slaves, that abundance of wealth and possessions? What wind hath visited and blown all away? Nay, but even stretched upon the bier, he beareth the tokens of that wealth and that pride; a splendid garment thrown over him, poor and rich following him forth, the assembled crowds breathing words of good omen<sup>1</sup>. Surely this also is a very <sup>εὐφημοῦντων</sup> mockery; howbeit even this besides is presently proved nought, like a blossom that perishes. For when we have passed over the threshold of the city gates, and after having delivered over the body to the worms, return, I will ask thee again, where is that vast crowd gone to? What has become of that clamour and uproar? where are the torches? where the bands of women? are not these things, then, a dream? And what too has become of those shouts? where are those

**HOMIL.**  
**XXIII.** many lips that cried, and bade him 'be of good cheer, for no man is immortal?' These things ought not now to be said to one that heareth not, but when he made prey of others, when he was overreaching, then with a slight change should it have been said to him, 'Be not of good cheer, no man is immortal; hold in thy madness, extinguish thy lust;' but 'Be of good cheer' is for the injured party. For to chant such things over this man now, is but like men exulting over him and speaking irony; for he ought not for this now to be of good cheer, but to fear and tremble.

And if even this advice is now of no use to him, since he has run his course, yet at least let those of the rich who labour under the same disease, and follow him to the tomb, hear it. For although, beforetime, through the intoxication of wealth, they have no such thing in mind, yet at such a season, when the sight of him that is laid out even confirms what is said, let them be sober, let them be instructed: reflecting that yet a little while, and they will come that shall bear them away to that fearful account, and to suffer the penalty of their acts of rapacity and extortion. 'And what is this to the poor?' saith one. Why, to many this also is a satisfaction, to see him that hath wronged them punished. 'But to us it is no satisfaction, but the escaping suffering ourselves.' I praise you exceedingly and approve of you in this, that ye exult not over the calamities of others, but

<sup>1</sup> ἐγγυή-  
σομαι. seek only your own safety. Come then, I will ensure<sup>1</sup> you this also. For if we suffer evil at the hands of men, we cut off no small part of our debt, by bearing what is done to us nobly. We receive therefore no injury; for God reckons the ill-treatment towards our debt, not according to the principle of justice, but of His loving-kindness; and because He succoured not him that suffered evil. 'Whence doth this appear?' saith one. The Jews once suffered evil at the hand of the Babylonians; and God did not prevent it: but they were carried away, children and women; yet afterwards did this captivity become a consolation to them in respect of<sup>2</sup> their sins. Therefore He saith to Esaias, *Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, ye priests: speak unto the heart of Jerusalem, for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for sins.* And again; *Grant us peace, for Thou hast repaid us every thing.* And David saith; *Behold*

<sup>2</sup> κατὰ  
ἀναλο-  
γίαν  
Is. 40,  
1. 2.  
ib. 26, 12.  
Ps. 25,  
19. 18.

*mine enemies, for they are multiplied; and forgive all my sins.* And when he bore with Shimei cursing him, he said, <sup>2 Cor. XI. 12.</sup> *Let him alone, that the Lord may see my abasement, and requite me good for this day.* For when He aideth us not <sup>2 Sam. 16, 11.</sup> when we suffer wrong, then most of all are we advantaged; for He sets it to the account of our sins, if we bear it thankfully.

[8.] So that when thou seest a rich man ravishing the poor, (6.) leave him that suffereth wrong, and weep for the ravisher. For the one putteth off filth, the other bedaubeth himself with more filth. Such was the fate of Elisha's servant in the story of Naaman. For though he took not by violence, yet <sup>2 Kings 5, 20. &c.</sup> he did a wrong; for to get money by deceit is a wrong. What then befel? With the wrong he received also the leprosy; and he that was wronged was benefitted, but he that did the wrong received the greatest possible harm. The same happens now also in the case of the soul. And this is of so great force, that often by itself it hath propitiated God; yea though he who suffereth evil be unworthy of aid; yet when he so suffers in excess, by this alone he draweth God unto the forgiveness of himself, and to the punishment of him that did the wrong. Wherefore also God said of old to the heathen, *I indeed delivered them over unto a few things, but they have set themselves on together unto evil things; they shall suffer ills irremediable* <sup>Zech. 1, 15. LXX.</sup> <sup>1.</sup> For there is <sup>1 ἀνήκεστα.</sup> nothing, no, nothing, that doth so much exasperate God, as rapine, and violence, and extortion. And why forsooth? Because it is very easy to abstain from this sin. For here it is not any natural desire that perturbeth the mind, but it ariseth from wilful negligence <sup>2.</sup> How then doth the Apostle <sup>2 βαθυ-μίας</sup> call it, *the root of evils*. Why, I say so too, but this root is <sup>1 Tim. 6, 10.</sup> from us, and not from the nature of the things. And, if ye will, let us make a comparison, and see which is the more imperious, the desire of money or of beauty <sup>3.</sup>; for that which <sup>3 σωμά-τερον.</sup> shall be found to have struck down great men, is the more difficult to master. Let us see then what great man the desire of money ever got possession of. Not one; only of exceeding pitiful and abject persons, Gehazi, Ahab, Judas, the priests of the Jews: but the desire of beauty overcame even the great prophet David. And this I say, not as ex-



**HOMIL. XXIII.** tending forgiveness to those who are conquered by such a lust, but rather, as preparing them to be watchful. For when I have shewn the strength of the passion, then, most especially, I shew them to be deprived of every claim to forgiveness. For if indeed thou hadst not known the wild beast, thou wouldest have this to take refuge in; but now, having known, yet falling into it, thou wilt have no excuse.

<sup>1</sup> David After him <sup>1</sup>, it took possession of his son still more completely And yet was there never man wiser than he, and all other virtue did he attain; still, however, he was seized so violently by this passion, that even in his vitals he received the wound. And the father indeed rose up again, and renewed the struggle, and was crowned again; but the son shewed nothing of the kind.

<sup>1</sup> Cor. 7. Therefore also Paul said, *It is better to marry than*  
<sup>9.</sup> *to burn*: and Christ, *He that is able to receive it, let*  
<sup>Mat. 19,</sup> *him receive it.* But concerning money He spake not  
<sup>12.</sup> so, but, *whoso hath forsaken his goods shall receive*  
<sup>ib. 29.</sup> *an hundredfold.* 'How then,' saith one, 'did He say of the rich, that they shall hardly obtain the kingdom?' Again implying at their weakness of character; not the imperiousness of money, but their utter slavery. And this is evident also from the advice which Paul gave. For from  
<sup>1</sup> Tim. that lust he leads men quite away, saying, *But they that*  
<sup>6, 9.</sup> *will be rich fall into temptation*; but in the case of the other not so; but having separated them *for a season* only,  
<sup>1</sup> Cor. and that by *consent*, he advises to *come together again.*  
<sup>7, 5.</sup> For he feared the billows of lust, lest they should occasion

<sup>2</sup> ἐν τῷ ὄρω- a grievous shipwreck. This passion is even more vehement<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>τερον</sup> than anger. For it is not possible to feel anger when there  
<sup>3</sup> or, 'no is nothing<sup>3</sup> provoking it, but a man cannot help desiring,  
<sup>one</sup> even when the face which moveth to it is not seen.

Therefore this passion indeed He did not cut off altogether,  
<sup>Matt. 5,</sup> but added the words, *without a cause.* Nor again did He  
<sup>22.</sup> abolish all desire, but only that which is unlawful, for  
<sup>1</sup> Cor. he saith, *Nevertheless, because of desires<sup>a</sup>, let every man*  
<sup>7, 2.</sup> *have his own wife.* But to lay up treasure He allowed not, either without cause, or with cause. For those passions

<sup>a</sup> S. Chrysostom here reads, 'because cause of fornications,' πορνείας, with of desires' ἐπιθυμίας, instead of, 'be- the Rec. Text.



were implanted in our nature for a necessary end; desire, for <sup>2 COR. XI. 12.</sup> the procreation of children, and anger, for the succour of the injured, but desire of money not so. Therefore neither is the passion natural to us. So then if thou art made captive by it, thou wilt suffer so much the more the vilest punishment. Therefore, surely, it is, that Paul, permitting even a second marriage, demands, in the case of money, great strictness, saying, *Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?* <sup>1 Cor. 6, 7.</sup> And when treating of virginity, he says, *I have no commandment,* <sup>ib. 7, 25.</sup> and *I speak this for your profit, not that I may cast a snare upon you:* <sup>ib. 35.</sup> but when his discourse is of money, he says, *Having raiment and food, let us be therewith content.* <sup>1 Tim. 6, 8.</sup> 'How then is it,' saith one, 'that by this, more than the other, are many overcome?' Because they stand not so much on their guard <sup>1</sup> against it, as against lasciviousness and fornication; <sup>1 παρα- ταπτόμε- νοι</sup> for if they had thought it equally dangerous, they would not, perhaps, have been made its captives. So also were those wretched virgins cast out of the bridechamber, because that, <sup>Mat. 25, 1. &c.</sup> having struck down the greater adversary, they were wounded <sup>2</sup> <sup>2 al.</sup> by one weaker, and who was nothing. Besides this, one may say further, that if any, subduing lust, is overcome by money, often <sup>3</sup> he does not in fact subdue lust, but has received from <sup>3</sup> <sup>Or,</sup> nature the gift of suffering no great uneasiness of that sort; <sup>perhaps.</sup> for all are not equally inclined to it. Knowing then these things, and revolving frequently with ourselves the example of the virgins, let us shun this evil wild beast. For if virginity profited them nothing, but after countless toils and labours, they perished through the love of money, who shall deliver us if we fall into this passion? Wherefore I beseech you to do all you can, both that ye be not taken captive by it, and that if taken, ye continue not in captivity, but break asunder those hard bonds. For so shall we be able to secure a footing in heaven, and to obtain those countless good things; whereunto may all we attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, - now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

## HOMILY XXIV.

2 COR. xi. 13.

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the Apostles of Christ.*

WHAT sayest thou? they that preach Christ, they that take not money, they that bring not in another gospel, *false apostles*? ‘Yes,’ he saith, and for this very reason most of all, because they make pretence of all these things, for the purpose of deceiving. *Deceitful workers*, for they do work indeed, but pull up what had been planted. For being well aware that otherwise they would not be well received, they take the mask of truth, and so enact the drama of error. ‘And yet,’ saith one, ‘they take no money.’ That they may take greater things; that they may destroy the soul. Yea rather, even that was a falsehood; and they took money; but did it secretly: and he shews this in what follows. And indeed he has already hinted this where he said,  
 ver. 12. *that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we:*  
 in what follows, however, he has hinted it more plainly,  
 ver. 20. saying, *If a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, ye bear with him.* But at present he accuses them on another count, saying, *transforming themselves.* They had only a *form*; the skin of the sheep was but outside clothing<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> ἐπικεῖ-  
ται.

Ver. 14, 15. *And no marvel; for if Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light, is it a great thing if his ministers also are transformed as the ministers of righteousness?*

So that if one ought to marvel, this is what one ought to marvel <sup>2 COR. XI. 17.</sup> at, and not at their transformation. For when their teacher dares do any thing, no marvel that the disciples also follow. But what is *an angel of light*? That hath free liberty to speak, that standeth near to God. For there are also angels of darkness; those which be the devil's, those dark and cruel ones. And the devil hath deceived many so, being *transformed into*, not becoming, *an angel of light*. So also do these bear about them the form of an Apostle, not the power itself, for this they cannot. But nothing is so like the devil<sup>1</sup>, as to do things for display. But what is <sup>1 διαβολικὸν</sup> *a ministry of righteousness*? That which we are, who preach to you a Gospel having righteousness. For he either means this, or else that they invest themselves with the character of righteous men. How then shall we know them? *By their works*, as Christ said. Wherefore he is compelled to place his own good deeds and their wickedness side by side, that the spurious may become evident by the comparison. And when about again to enter upon his own praises, he first accuses them, in order to shew that such an argument was forced upon him, lest any should accuse him for speaking about himself, and says,

Ver. 16. *Again I say*. For he had even already used much preparatory corrective: 'But nevertheless I am not contented with what I have said, but I say yet again,'

*Let no man think me a fool*. For this was what they did—boasted without a reason.—But observe, I pray you, how often, when about to enter upon his own praises, he puts back<sup>2</sup>. 'For indeed it is the act of folly,' he says, 'to boast: <sup>2 ἀνακρούεται</sup> but I do it not, as playing the fool, but because compelled. But if ye do not believe me, but, though ye see there is a necessity, will condemn me; not even so will I decline the task<sup>3</sup>.' Seest thou how he shewed that there was great <sup>3 παρρησιόσμαι</sup> necessity for his speaking. For he that shunned not even this suspicion, consider what violent impulsion to speak he must have undergone, how he travailed and was constrained to speak. But, nevertheless, even so he employs this thing with moderation. For he did not say, 'that I may boast.' And when about to *boast himself a little*, again he uses yet another deprecatory expression<sup>4</sup>, saying, <sup>4 παρητήσσει</sup>

HOMIL.  
XXIV. Ver. 17. *That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were in folly, in this confidence of boasting.*

Seest thou how boasting is not *after the Lord*? For He saith, *When ye shall have done all, say, We are unprofitable servants.* Howbeit, by itself indeed it is not *after the Lord*, but by the intention it becomes so. And therefore he said, *That which I speak*, not accusing the motive, but the words. Since his aim is so admirable, as to dignify the words also. For as a manslayer, though his action be of those most strictly forbidden, has often been approved from the intention; and as circumcision, although it is not ‘*after the Lord*,’ has become so from the intention, so also boasting. And wherefore then does he not use so great strictness of expression? Because he is hastening on to another point, and he freely gratifies, even to superfluity, those who are desirous to find a handle against him, so that only he may say the things that are profitable; for when said they were enough to extinguish all that suspicion. *But as it were in folly.* Before he says, *Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly*, but now *as it were in folly*; for the farther he proceeds, the more he clears his language. Then that thou mayest not think that he plays the fool on all points, he added, *in this confidence of boasting.* In this particular he means: just as in another place he said, *that we be not ashamed*, and added, *in this same confident boasting.* And again, in another place, having said, *Or what I purpose do I purpose after the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay?* And having shewn, that he cannot in all cases even fulfil what he promises, because he does not purpose after the flesh, lest any should make this suspicion stretch to the doctrine also, he adds, *But as God is true, our word towards you was not yea and nay.*

(2.) [2.] And observe how, after having said so many things before, he again sets down yet other grounds of excuse, saying further thus,

Ver. 18. *Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.*

What is, *after the flesh*? Of things external, of high birth, of wealth, of wisdom, of being circumcised, of Hebrew

ancestry, of popular renown. And behold wisdom. He <sup>2 COR. X1. 20.</sup> sets down those things, which he shews to be nothings<sup>1</sup>, and <sup>οὐδὲνα</sup> then, folly also. For if to boast of what are really good things be folly, much more is it so [to boast] of those that are nothing. And this is what he calls, *not after the Lord*. For it is no advantage to be a Hebrew, or any such like things soever. ‘Think not, therefore, that I set these down as a virtue; no; but because those men boast, I also am compelled to institute my comparison on these points.’ Which he does also in another place, saying, *If any man thinketh* <sup>Phil. 3, 4.</sup> *that he may trust in the flesh, I more*: and there, it is on their account that trusted in this. Just as if one who was come of an illustrious race, but who had chosen a philosophic life, should see others priding themselves greatly on being well-born; and being desirous of taking down their vanity, should be compelled to speak of his own distinction; not to adorn himself, but to humble them; so, truly, does Paul also do. Then leaving those, he empties all his censure upon the Corinthians, saying,

Ver. 19. *For ye suffer fools gladly*. ‘So that ye are to blame for this, and more than they. For if ye had not borne with them, and, so far as it lay in them, received damage, I would not have spoken a word; but I do it out of a tender care for your salvation, and in condescension. And behold, how he accompanies even his censure with praise. For having said, *ye suffer fools gladly*; he added,

*Being wise*. For it was a sign of folly to glory, and on such matters. And yet it behoved to have rebuked them, and said, ‘Do not suffer fools;’ he does this, however, at greater advantage. For in that case he would have seemed to rebuke them, because he himself was destitute of these advantages; but now having shewed himself to be their superior even in these points, and to esteem them to be nothing, he corrects them with greater effect. At present, however, before entering upon his own praises, and that comparison, he also reproaches the Corinthians with their great slavishness, because they were extravagantly submissive to them. And observe how he ridicules them.

Ver. 20. *For ye suffer it*, he says, *if a man devour you*.

How then saidst thou, *that wherein they glory, they* <sup>v. 12</sup>



HOMIL. *may be found even as we?* Seest thou that he shews that  
 XXIV. they did take of them, and not simply take, but even in excess: for the term *devour* plainly shews this,

*If a man bring you into bondage.* ‘Ye have given away both your money,’ he says, ‘and your persons, and your freedom. For this is more than taking of you; to be masters not only of your money, but of yourselves also.’ And he makes this plain even before, where he says, *If others be partakers of this power over you, are we not much rather?* Then he addeth what is more severe, saying,

1 Cor.  
9, 12.

*If a man exalt himself.* ‘For neither is your slavery of a moderate sort, nor are your masters gentle, but importunate, and odious.’

*If a man smite you on the face.* Seest thou again a further stretch of tyranny? He said this, not meaning that they were stricken on the face, but that they spat upon and dishonoured them; wherefore he added,

Ver. 21. *I speak in respect to dishonour,* for ye suffer no whit less than men smitten on the face. What now can be stronger than this? What oppression more bitter than this? when having taken from you both your money and your freedom and your honour, they are not even so gentle towards you, nor suffer you to abide in the rank of servants, but have used you more insultingly than any bought slave.

*As though we had been weak.* The expression is obscure. For since it was a disagreeable subject, he therefore so expressed it as to steal away the offensiveness by the obscurity. For what he wishes to say is this. ‘For cannot we also do these things? Yes, but we do them not. Wherefore then do ye suffer these men, as though we could not do these things? Surely it were something to impute to you, that ye even suffer men who play the fool; but that ye do this, even when they so despise you, plunder you, exalt themselves, smite you, can neither admit of excuse, nor any reason at all. For this is a new fashion of deceiving. For men that deceive both give and flatter; but these both deceive, and take of, and insult you. Whence ye cannot have a shadow of allowance, seeing that ye spit on those that humble themselves for your sakes, that ye may be exalted, but admire those who exalt themselves, that ye may be humbled. For could not we

too do these things? Yes, but we do not wish it, looking <sup>2 COR.</sup> to your advantage. For they indeed sacrificing your interests <sup>XI. 21.</sup> seek their own, but we sacrificing our own interests seek for yours.' Seest thou how in every instance, whilst speaking plainly to them, he also alarms them by what he says. 'For,' he says, 'if it be on this account that ye honour them, because they smite and insult you, we also can do this, enslave, smite, exalt ourselves against you.'

[3.] Seest thou how he lays upon them the whole blame, (3.) both of their senseless pride, and of what seems to be folly in himself. 'For not that I may shew myself more glorious, but that I may set you free from this bitter slavery, am I compelled to boast some little. But it is meet not to examine simply things that are said, but, in addition, the reason also. For Samuel also put together a high panegyric upon himself, when he anointed Saul, saying, *Whose ass have I taken, or calf, or shoes? or have I oppressed any of you?* And yet no one finds fault with him. <sup>1 Sam. 12, 3.</sup> <sup>LXX.</sup> And the reason is, because he did not say it by way of setting off himself; but, because he was going to appoint a king, he wishes under the form of a defence [of himself] to instruct him to be meek and gentle. And observe the wisdom of the prophet, or rather the lovingkindness of God. For because he wished to turn them from [their design,] bringing together a number of grievous things, he asserted them of their future king, as, for instance, that he would <sup>1 Sam. 8, 11—18.</sup> make their wives grind at the mill, the men shepherds, and muleteers; for he went through all the service appertaining to the kingdom with minuteness. But when he saw that they would not be hindered by any of these things, but were incurably distempered; he thus both spareth them, and composeth their king to gentleness. Therefore he also <sup>1 Sam. 12, 5.</sup> takes him to witness. For indeed no one was then bringing suit or charge against him, that he needed to defend himself, but he said those things in order to make him better. And therefore also he added, to take down his pride, *If ye* <sup>ibid. 14.</sup> *will hearken, ye and your king, such and such good things shall be yours; but if ye will not hearken,* then the reverse of all. Amos also said, *I was no prophet, nor the son of a* <sup>Amos 7, 14, 15.</sup> *prophet, but only a herdsman, a gatherer of sycamine fruit.*

HOMIL. *And God took me.* But he did not say this to exalt himself,  
XXIV.

Micah  
3, 8.

1 Sam.  
17, 34.  
&c.

1 Sam.  
24, 4. &c.

but to stop their mouths that suspected him as no prophet, and to shew that he is no deceiver, nor says of his own mind the things which he says. Again, another also, to shew the very same thing, said, *But truly I am full of power by the spirit and might of the Lord.* And David also, when he related the matter of the lion and of the bear, spake not to glorify himself, but to bring about a great and admirable end. For since it was not believed possible he could conquer the barbarian unarmed, he that was not able even to bear arms; he was compelled to give proofs of his own valour. And when he cut off Saul's skirt, he said not what he said out of display, but to repel an ill suspicion which they had scattered abroad against him, saying, that he wished to kill him. It is meet therefore every where to seek for the reason. For he that looks to the advantage of his hearers even though he should praise himself, not only deserves not to be found fault with, but even to be crowned; and if he is silent, then to be found fault with. For if David had then been silent in the matter of Goliath, they would not have allowed him to go out to the battle, nor to have raised that illustrious trophy. On this account then he speaks being compelled; and that not to his brethren, although he was distrusted by them too as well as by the king; but envy stopped their ears. Therefore leaving them alone, he tells his tale to him, who was not as yet envious of him.

MORAL.

(4.)

[4.] For envy is a fearful, a fearful thing, and persuades men to despise their own salvation. In this way did both Cain destroy himself, and again, before his time, the destroyer of his father, the devil. So did Saul invite an evil demon against his own soul; and when he had invited, he again envied his physician. For such is the nature of envy; he knew that he was saved, yet he would rather have perished, than see him that saved him had in honour. What can be more grievous than this passion? One can not err in calling it the devil's offspring. And in it is contained the fruit of vainglory, or rather, its root also; for both these evils are wont mutually to produce each other. And thus in truth it was, that Saul even thus envied, when they said, *David smote by ten thousands,* than which what can be more senseless? For why dost thou

1 Sam.  
18, 7.

envy? tell me! ‘Because such an one praised him?’ <sup>2 COR. XI. 21.</sup>  
Yet surely thou oughtest to rejoice; besides, thou dost not know even, whether the praise be true. And dost thou therefore grieve, because without being admirable, he hath been praised as such? And yet thou oughtest to feel pity. For if he be good, thou oughtest not to envy him when praised, but thyself to praise, along with those that speak well of him; but if not such, why art thou galled? why thrust the sword against thyself? ‘Because admired by men?’ But men to-day are, and to-morrow are not. ‘But because he enjoys glory?’ Of what sort, tell me? That of which the prophet says, that it is *the flower of grass*. Art thou then therefore envious because thou bearest no burden, nor carriest about with thee such loads of grass? But if he seems to thee to be enviable on this account, then why not also woodcutters who carry burdens every day, and come to the city [with them]? For that burden is nothing better than this, but even worse. For theirs indeed galls the body only, but this hath oftentimes harmed the soul even, and hath occasioned greater solicitude than pleasure. And should one have gained renown through eloquence, the fear he endures is greater than the good report he bears; yea, what is more, the one is short, the other perpetual. ‘But he is in favour with those in authority?’ In that too again is danger and envy. For as thou feelest towards him, so do many others feel. ‘But he is praised continually?’ This produces bitter slavery. For he will not dare to do fearlessly, aught of what according to his judgment he should, lest he should offend those that extol him, for that distinction is a hard bondage to him. So that the more he is known to, so many the more masters he has, and his slavery becomes the greater, as masters of his are found in every quarter. A servant indeed, when he is released from the eye of his master, both takes breath, and lives in all freedom; but this man meets with masters at every turn, for he is the slave of all that appear in the forum. And even should some necessary object press, he dares not set foot in the forum, except it be with his servants following, and his horse, and all his other show set in array, lest his masters condemn him. And if he sees some friend of those who are truly so<sup>1</sup>, he has not the boldness to talk with him<sup>1</sup> Or  
<sup>‘worthy’</sup>

HOMIL.  
XXIV. on an equal footing: for he is afraid of his masters, lest they depose him from his glory. So that the more distinguished he is, so much the more he is enslaved. And if he suffer aught that is disagreeable, the insult is the more annoying, both in that he has more to witness it, and it seems to infringe his dignity. It is not only an insult, but a calamity also, for he has also many who exult at it; and in like way if he come to the enjoyment of any good thing, he has more who envy, and detract, and do their diligence to destroy him. Is this then a good? tell me. Is this glory? By no means; but ingloriousness, and slavery, and bonds, and every burdensome thing one can say. But if the glory that cometh of men be so greatly to be coveted in thy account, and if it quite disquiets thee, that such and such an one is applauded of the many; when thou beholdest him in the enjoyment of that applause, pass over in thy thought to the world to come, and the glory which is there. And just as when hurrying to escape the onset of a wild beast, thou enterest into a cabin and shuttest to the doors; so now also flee unto the life to come, and that unspeakable glory. For so shalt thou both tread this under thy feet, and wilt easily lay hold upon that, and wilt enjoy the true liberty, and the eternal good things; whereunto may all we attain through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, with the Holy Spirit, be glory, might, honour, now and ever, and world without end. Amen.



## HOMILY XXV.

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2 COR. xi. 21.

*Howbeit, whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,)  
I am bold also.*

SEE him again drawing back, and using deprecation and correctives beforehand, although he has already even said many such things: as, *Would to God that ye could bear with* ver. 1. *me a little in my folly;* and again, *Let no man think me a fool:* ver. 16. *if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me. That which I speak,* ver. 17. *I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly. Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also;* ver. 18. and here again, *Whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.* Boldness and folly he calls it to speak aught great of himself, and that too, though there was a necessity, teaching us even to an excess<sup>1</sup> to avoid any thing<sup>1</sup> ἐκ περιουσίας. of the sort. For if after we have done all, we ought to call ourselves unprofitable; of what forgiveness can he be worthy, who, when no reason presses, exalts himself and boasts? Therefore also did the Pharisee meet the fate he did, and even in harbour suffered shipwreck, because he struck upon this rock. Therefore also doth Paul, although he sees very ample necessity for it, draw back nevertheless, and keep on observing, that such speaking is a mark of foolishness. And then at length he makes the venture<sup>2</sup>, putting forward<sup>2</sup> κατατολμᾷ the plea of necessity, and says,

*Ver. 22. Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I.*

For it was not all Hebrews that were Israelites, since both the Ammonites and Moabites were Hebrews. Wherefore he added somewhat to clear his nobility of descent, and says,

HOMIL. Ver. 22, 23. *Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are*  
 XXV. *they ministers of Christ. I speak as a fool, I am more.*

He is not content with his former deprecation, but uses it again here also. *I speak as a fool, I am more.* I am their superior and their better. And indeed he possessed clear proofs of his superiority, but nevertheless even so, he terms the thing a folly<sup>1</sup>. And yet if they were false Apostles, he needed not to have introduced his own superiority by way of comparison, but to have destroyed their claim to be ministers at all. Well, he did destroy it, where he said,  
 v. 13. *False Apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the Apostles of Christ,* but now he doth not proceed in that way, for his discourse was about to proceed to strict examination; and no one when an examination is in hand, simply asserts; but having first stated the case in the way of comparison, he shews it to be negatived by the facts, a negative of exceeding stubbornness. But besides, it is their opinion he gives, not his own assertion, when he says, *Are they the ministers of Christ?* And having said, *I am more,* he proceeds in his comparison, and shews, that not by bare assertions, but by furnishing the proof that facts supply, he maintains the impress of the Apostleship. And leaving all his miracles, he begins with his trials; thus saying,

*In labours more abundant, in stripes above measure.* This latter is greater than the former; to be both beaten and scourged.

*In prisons more frequent.* Here too again is there an increase.

1 Cor. *In deaths oft.* For, *I die,* saith he, *daily.* But here, even  
 15, 31. in reality; 'for I have oft been delivered into mortal dangers<sup>2</sup>.'

<sup>2</sup> Literally, 'dangers having death.'  
 Ver. 24. *Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes, save one.*

Why, *save one?* There was an ancient law, that he who had received more than the forty, should be held disgraced amongst them. Lest then the vehemence and impetuosity<sup>3</sup> of the executioner by inflicting more than the number should cause a man to be disgraced, they decreed that they should be inflicted, *save one*, that even if the executioner should exceed, he might not overpass the forty, but remaining within the prescribed number, might not bring degradation on him that was scourged.

<sup>3</sup> ῥύμη  
 καὶ ὀρμη

Ver. 25. *Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck.* 2 COR.  
XI.  
25—28.

And what has this to do with the Gospel? Because he went forth on long journeys; and those by sea.

*A night and a day I have been in the deep.* Some say this means out on the open sea, others, swimming upon it, which is also the truer interpretation. There is nothing wonderful, at least, about the former, nor would he have placed it as greater than his shipwrecks.

Ver. 26. *In perils of rivers.*

For he was compelled also to cross rivers.

*In perils of robbers, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness.* ‘Every where were contests set before me, in places, in countries, in cities, in deserts.’

*In perils of the heathen, in perils amongst false brethren.*

Behold another kind of warfare. For not only did such as were enemies strike at him, but those also who played the hypocrite; and he had need of much firmness, much prudence.

[2.] Ver. 27. *In weariness and painfulness.*

Perils succeeded to labours, labours to perils, one upon other, and unintermitted, and allowed him not to take breath even for a little.

Ver. 27, 28. *In journeyings often, in hunger, and thirst, and nakedness, besides those things that are without.*

What is left out is more than what is enumerated. Yea (2.) rather, one cannot count the number of those even which are enumerated; for he has not set them down specifically, but has mentioned those the number of which was small and easily comprehended, saying, *thrice* and *thrice*, and [again] v. 25. *once*; but of the others he does not mention the number, because he had endured them often. And he recounts not their results, as that he had converted so many and so many, but only what he suffered on behalf of the Preaching; at once out of modesty, and as shewing that even should nothing have been gained but labour, even so his title to wages has been fulfilled.

*That which crowdeth upon me daily.* The tumults, the disturbances, the assaults<sup>1</sup> of mobs, onsets of cities. For 1 πολιορκίαι the Jews waged war against this man most of all, because

HOMIL. he most of all confounded them, and his changing sides  
XXV. all at once was the greatest refutation of their madness.

And there breathed a mighty war against him, from his own people, from strangers, from false brethren; and every where were billows and precipices, in the inhabited world, in the uninhabited, by land, by sea, without, within. And he had not even a full supply of necessary food, nor even of thin clothing, but the champion of the world wrestled in nakedness, and fought in hunger; so far was he from enriching

<sup>1</sup> χρημα- himself<sup>1</sup>. Yet he murmured not, but was grateful for these  
τίξεσθαι things to the Judge of the combat<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> αγωνο-  
θέρη

*The care of all the Churches.* This was the chief thing of all, that his soul too was distracted, and his thoughts divided. For even if nothing from without had assailed him; yet the war within was enough, those waves on waves, that sleet of cares, that war of thoughts. For if one that hath charge of but a single house, and hath servants, and superintendants, and stewards, often cannot take breath for cares, though there be none that molests him: he that hath the care not of a single house, but of cities, and peoples, and nations, and of the whole world; and in respect to such great concerns, and with so many spitefully entreating him, and singlehanded, and suffering so many things, and so tenderly concerned as not even a father is for his children—consider what he endured. For that thou mayest not say, What if he did care, yet the care was slight<sup>3</sup>, he added further the intensity of that care, saying,

<sup>3</sup> ἀπλως

Ver. 29. *Who is weak, and I am not weak?* He did not say, ‘and I share not in his dejection?’ but, ‘so am I troubled and disturbed, as though I myself were labouring under that very affection, that very infirmity.’

*Who is offended, and I burn not?* See, again, how he places before us the excess of his grief, by calling it ‘burning.’ ‘I am on fire,’ ‘I am in a flame,’ he says, which is surely greater than any thing he has said. For those other things, although violent, yet both pass quickly by, and brought with them that pleasure which is unfading; but this was what afflicted and straitened him, and pierced his mind through and through; the suffering such things for each one of the weak, whosoever he might be. For he did not feel pained for the

greater sort only, and despise the lesser, but counted even the <sup>2 Cor.</sup> abject amongst his familiar friends. Wherefore also he said, <sup>XI.</sup> 30—32. *Who is weak?* whosoever he may be; and as though he were himself the Church throughout the world, so was he distressed for every member.

Ver. 30. *If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.*

Seest thou, that he no where glorieth of miracles, but of his persecutions and his trials? For this is meant by *infirmities*. And he shews that his warfare was of a diversified character<sup>1</sup>. For both the Jews warred upon him, <sup>1 ποικί-</sup> and the Gentiles stood against him, and the false brethren <sup>λον.</sup> fought with him, and brethren caused him sorrow, through their weakness and by taking offence:—on every side he found trouble and disturbance, from friends, and from strangers. This is the especial mark of an Apostle, by these things is the Gospel woven.

Ver. 31, 32. *The God and Father of the Lord Jesus knoweth that I lie not. The Governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a guard, desirous to apprehend me.*

What can be the reason, why he here strongly confirms and gives assurance of [his truth], seeing he did not so in respect to any of the former things? Because, perhaps, this was of older date, and not so well known; whilst of those other facts, his care for the churches, and all the rest, they were themselves cognisant. See then how great the war [against him] was, since on his account the city was *kept with a guard*. And when I say this of the war, I say it of the zeal of Paul; for except this had breathed intensely, it had not kindled the governor to so great madness. These things are the part of an apostolic soul, to suffer so great things, and yet in nothing to veer about, but to bear nobly whatever befalls; yet not to go out to meet dangers, nor to rush upon them. See, for instance, here, how he was content to evade the siege, by being *let down through a window in a basket*. For though he were even desirous *to depart hence*; still nevertheless he also passionately affected the salvation of men. And therefore he oftentimes had recourse even to such devices as these, preserving himself for the



**HOMIL. XXV.** Preaching; and he refused not to use even human contrivances, when the occasion called for them; so sober and watchful was he. For in cases where evils were inevitable, he needed only grace; but where the trial was of a measured character, he deviseth many things of himself even, here again ascribing the whole to God. And just as a spark of unquenchable fire, if it fell into the sea, would be merged as many waves swept over it, yet would again rise shining to the surface; even so surely the blessed Paul also, would now<sup>1</sup> *διαδύς*. be overwhelmed by perils, and now again, having dived<sup>1</sup> through them, would come up more radiant, overcoming by suffering harms.

- (3.) [3.] For this is the brilliant victory, this is the Church's trophy, thus is the Devil overthrown when we suffer injury. For when we suffer, he is taken captive; and himself suffers harm, when he would fain inflict it on us. And this happened in Paul's case also; and the more he plied him with perils, the more was he defeated. Nor did he raise up against him only one kind of trials, but various and diverse. For some involved labour, others sorrow, others fear, others pain, others care, others shame, others all these at once; but yet he was victorious in all. And like as if a single soldier, having the whole world fighting against him, should move through the mid ranks of his enemies, and suffer no harm: even so did Paul, singly, among barbarians, among Greeks, on every land, on every sea, appear, and abide unconquered. And as a spark, falling upon reeds and hay, changes into its own nature the things so kindled; so also did this man setting upon all, make all things change over unto the truth; like a winter torrent, sweeping over all things, and overturning every obstacle. And like some champion who wrestles, runs, and boxes too; or soldier engaged by turns in storming<sup>2</sup>, on foot, on shipboard; so did he try by turns every form of fight, and breathed fire at them, and was unapproachable by all; with his single body taking possession of the world, with his single tongue putting all to flight. Not with such force the breath of those many trumpets fell upon the stones of Jericho, and threw them down, as did this man's voice both dash with its sound to the earth the devil's strong-holds, and bring over to himself those that were against him. And when he had

<sup>2</sup> *τειχομαχῶν*.

collected a multitude of captives, having armed the same, he <sup>2 COR. XI.</sup> made them again his own army, and by their means, con- <sup>30—32.</sup> quered. Wonderful was David, who laid Goliath low with a single stone; but if thou wilt examine Paul's achievements, that is a child's exploit, and great as is the difference between a shepherd and a general, so great the difference thou shalt see here. For this man brought down no Goliath by the hurling of a stone, but by speaking only he scattered the whole array of the Devil; as a lion roaring and darting out flame from his tongue, so was he found by all irresistible; and bounded every where by turns continually; he ran to these, he came to those, he turned about to these, he bounded away to others, swifter in his visitation of them than the wind; governing the whole world, as though a single house or a single ship; rescuing the sinking, steadying the dizzied, cheering the sailors, sitting at the tiller, keeping an eye to the prow, tightening the yards, handling an oar, pulling at the mast, watching the sky; being all things in himself, both sailor, and pilot, and pilot's mate<sup>1</sup>, and sail, and ship; and suffering all things<sup>1 πρω- ρεύς</sup> in order to relieve the evils of others. For consider. He endured shipwreck, that he might stay the shipwreck of the world; *a day and a night he passed in the deep*, that he might draw it up<sup>2</sup> from the deep of error; he was *in weariness*, that he might refresh the weary; he endured smiting, that he might heal those that had been smitten of the devil; he passed his time in prisons, that he might lead forth to the light those that were sitting in prison and in darkness; he was *in deaths oft*, that he might deliver from grievous deaths; *five times he received forty stripes, save one*, that he might free those that inflicted them from the scourge of the devil; he was *beaten with rods*, that he might bring them under *the rod and the staff* of Christ; he *was stoned*, that he might <sup>Ps. 23, 4.</sup> deliver them from the senseless stones; he *was in the wilderness*<sup>3</sup>, that he might take them out of the wilderness; <sup>3 or 'de- solate- ness'</sup> *in journeyings*, to stay their wanderings, and open the way that leadeth to heaven; he *was in perils in the cities*, that he might shew the city which is above; *in hunger and thirst*, to deliver from a more grievous hunger; *in nakedness*, to clothe their unseemliness with the robe of Christ; set upon by the mob, to extricate them from the besetments

HOMIL.  
XXV.

of fiends; he burned, that he might quench the burning darts of the devil: *through a window was let down from the wall*, to send up from below those that lay prostrate upon the ground. Shall we then talk any more, seeing we do not so much as know what Paul suffered? shall we make mention any more of goods, or even of wife, or city, or freedom, when we have seen him ten thousand times despising even life itself? The martyr dies once for all: but that blessed saint, in his one body and one soul, endured so many perils, as were enough to disturb even a soul of adamant; and what things all the saints together have suffered in so many bodies, those all he himself endured in one: he entered into the world as if a race-course, and stripped himself of all, and so made a noble stand. For he knew the fiends that were wrestling with him. Wherefore also he shone forth brightly at once from the beginning, from the very starting-post, and even to the end he continued the same; yea rather, he even increased the intensity of his pursuit, as he drew nearer to the prize. And what surely is wonderful is, that though suffering and doing such great things, he knew to maintain an exceeding modesty. For when he was driven upon the necessity of relating his own good deeds, he ran quickly over them all; although he might have filled books without number, had he wished to unfold in details<sup>1</sup> every thing he mentioned; if he had mentioned the Churches he was in care for, if his prisons and his achievements in them, if of the other things one by one, the besetments<sup>2</sup>, the assaults. But he would not. Knowing then these things, let us also learn to be modest, and not to boast at any time of wealth, or other worldly things, but in the reproaches we suffer for Christ's sake, and in these, only when need compels; for if there be nothing urging it, let us not mention these even, (lest we be puffed up,) but our sins only. For so shall we both easily be released from them, and shall have God propitious to us, and shall attain the life to come; whereunto may we all attain through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> ἐξα-  
πλώσαι<sup>2</sup> περι-  
στάσεις.

## HOMILY XXVI.

2 COR. xii. 1.

*It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory, [for] I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.*

WHAT is this? Doth he who has spoken such great things say, [It is not expedient] *doubtless to glory?* as if he had said nothing? No; not as if he had said nothing: but because he is going to pass to another species of boasting, which is not attended indeed by so great a reward, but which to the many (though not to careful examiners) seems to set him off in brighter colours<sup>1</sup>, he says, *It is not ex-* <sup>1 λαμ-  
πρότε-  
ρον.</sup> *pedient for me doubtless to glory.* For truly the great grounds of boasting were those which he had recounted, those of his trials; he has however other things also to tell of, such as concern the revelations and the unspeakable mysteries. And wherefore, says he, *It is not expedient for me?* he means, 'lest it lift me up to pride.' What sayest thou? For if thou speak not of them, yet dost thou not know of them? But our knowing of them ourselves doth not lift us up so much, as our publishing them to others. For it is not the nature of good deeds that useth to lift a man up, but their being witnessed to, and known of, by the many. For this cause therefore he saith, *It is not expedient for me;* and, 'that I may not implant too great an idea of me in those who hear.' For those men indeed, the false apostles, said even what was not true about themselves; but this man hides even what is true, and that too although so great necessity lies upon him, and says, *It is not expedient for me;* teaching

HOMIL. one and all even to superfluity<sup>1</sup> to avoid any thing of the  
 XXVI. sort. For this thing<sup>2</sup> is attended with no advantage, but  
 ἡ ἐκ πολλῶν  
 λῆς πει- even with harm, except there be some necessary and useful  
 ριουσίας. reason which induceth us thereto. Having then spoken of  
 2 i. e. boasting those his perils, trials, snares, dejections, shipwrecks, he  
 passeth to another species of boasting, saying,

Ver. 2, 3. *I knew a man, about fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew how that he was caught up into paradise, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or out of the body, I cannot tell;) and heard unspeakable words, which*  
 3 or, 'pos- it is not lawful<sup>3</sup> for a man to utter. Of such an one will  
 sible' *I glory: yet of myself I will not glory.*

Great indeed was this revelation. But this was not the only one: there were many others besides, but he mentions one out of many. For, that there were many, hear what he  
 v. 7. says: *Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations. 'And yet,' a man may say, 'if he wished to conceal them, he ought not to have given*  
 4 αἰνίγμα any intimation<sup>4</sup> whatever, or said any thing of the sort; but if he wished to speak of them, to speak plainly.' Wherefore then is it, that he neither spoke plainly nor kept silence?  
 5 or, 'in To shew by this<sup>5</sup> also that he resorts to the thing un-  
 this in- willingly. And therefore also he has stated the time, *four-*  
 stance' *teen years.* For he does not mention it without an object, but to shew, that he who had refrained for so long a time, would not now have spoken out, except the necessity for doing so had been great. But he would have still kept silence, had he not seen the brethren perishing. Now if Paul from the very beginning was such an one, as to be counted worthy of such a revelation, when as yet he had not wrought such good works; consider what he must have grown to in fourteen years. And observe how even in this very matter he shews modesty, by his saying some things, but confessing that of some he is ignorant. For that he was caught up indeed, he declared, but whether *in the body or out of the body* he says he does not know. And yet it would have been quite enough, if he had told of his being caught up, and had been silent [about the other]; but as it is, in his modesty he adds



this also. What then? Was it the mind that was caught up, and the soul, whilst the body remained dead? or was the body caught up? It is impossible to tell. For if Paul, who was caught up, and whom things unspeakable, so many and so great, had befallen, was in ignorance, much more we. For, indeed, that he was in paradise he knew, and that he was in the third heaven he was not ignorant, but the manner he knew not clearly. And see from yet another consideration how free he is from pride. For in his narrative about *the city of the Damascenes* he confirms what he says, but here not; for it was not his aim to establish this fact strongly, but to mention and intimate it only. Wherefore also he goes on to say, *Of such an one will I glory*; not this meaning, that he who was caught up was some other person, but so frames his language in the best manner he possibly could, so as at once to mention the fact, and to avoid speaking of himself openly. For what sequence would there be, in bringing some one else forward, when discoursing about himself? Wherefore then did he so put it? It was not all one to say, 'I was caught up,' and, *I knew one that was caught up*; and 'I will boast of myself,' and, *I will boast of such an one*. Now if any should say, 'And how is it possible to be caught up without a body?' I will ask him, 'How is it possible to be caught up with a body?' for this is even more inexplicable than the other, if you examine by reasonings, and do not give place to faith.

[2.] But wherefore was he also caught up? As I think, that he might not seem to be inferior to the rest of the Apostles. For since they had companied with Christ, but Paul had not: He therefore caught up unto glory him also. *Into Paradise*. For great was the name of this place, and it was every where celebrated. Wherefore also Christ said, *To-day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise*.

*Of such an one will I glory*. Wherefore? For if another were caught up, wherefore dost thou glory? Whence it is evident, that he said these things of himself. And if he added, *but of myself I will not glory*, he says nothing else than this, that, 'when there is no necessity, I will say nothing of that kind fruitlessly, and at random;' or else he is again throwing obscurity over<sup>1</sup> what he had said, as best he might. For that

<sup>2</sup> Cor. XII. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Cor. 11, 32.

Luke 23, 43.

<sup>1</sup> συσκιδίζων.

HOMIL. the whole discourse was about himself, what follows also  
XXVI. clearly shews; for he went on to say,

Ver. 6. *But though I should even desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth.*

c. 11, 1. How then saidst thou before, *Would that ye could bear*  
c. 11, 17. *with me a little in my folly; and, That which I speak,*  
*I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly; but*  
*here, Though I should even desire to glory, I shall not be a*  
*fool?* Not in regard of glorying, but of lying; for if glorying  
be foolishness, how much more lying?

It is then with regard to this that he says, *I shall not be a*  
*fool.* Wherefore also he added,

*For I will say the truth; but now I forbear, lest any man*  
*should think of me above that which he seeth<sup>1</sup>, or that he heareth*  
*of me.* Here you have the acknowledged reason; for they even  
deemed them to be gods, on account of the greatness of their  
miracles. As then in the case of the elements, God hath done  
both things, creating them at once weak and glorious; the one,  
to proclaim His own power; the other, to prevent the error  
of mankind<sup>2</sup>: so truly here also were they both wonderful  
and weak, so that by the facts themselves were the unbelievers  
instructed. For if whilst continuing to be wonderful  
only, and giving no proof of weakness, they had by words  
tried to draw away the many from conceiving of them more  
than the truth; not only would they have nothing succeeded,  
but they would even have brought about the contrary. For  
those dissuasions in words, would have seemed rather to  
spring of lowliness of mind, and would have caused them to  
be the more admired. Therefore in act and by deeds was  
their weakness disclosed. And one may see this exemplified,  
in those men who lived under the old dispensation. For  
Elias was wonderful, but on one occasion he stood convicted  
of faint-heartedness; and Moses was great, but he also fled<sup>3</sup>  
under the influence of the same passion. Now such things  
befel them, because God stood aloof, and permitted their  
human nature to stand confessed. For if, because he led  
them out, they said, 'Where is Moses?' what would they not  
have said, if he had also led them in? Wherefore also  
[Paul] himself says, *I forbear, lest any should think of me.*  
He said not, 'say of me,' but, *lest any should even think of*

<sup>1</sup> Rec.  
text,  
'seeth  
me'

<sup>2</sup> i. e. in  
worship-  
ping  
them.

<sup>3</sup> ἐδραπέ-  
τευσε

me beyond my desert.' Whence it is evident from this also, <sup>2 COR. XII. 7.</sup> that the whole discourse relates to himself. Wherefore even when he began, he said, *It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory*, which he would not have said, had he been going to speak the things which he said of another man. For wherefore is it *not expedient to glory* about another? But it was himself that was counted worthy of these things; and therefore it is that he goes on to say,

Ver. 7. *And lest I should be exalted above measure, through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan, that he may buffet me.*

What sayest thou? He that counted not the kingdom to be any thing; no, nor yet hell in respect of his longing after Christ; did he deem honour from the many to be any thing, so as both to be lifted up, and to need that curb continually? for he did not say, 'that he *might* buffet<sup>1</sup> me,' but *that he* <sup>1 κολα- φίστη</sup> *may buffet*<sup>2</sup> *me.* Yet who is there would say this? What <sup>2 κολα- φίστη</sup> then is the meaning of what is said? When we have explained what is meant at all by the *thorn*, and who is this *messenger of Satan*, then will we declare this also. There are some then who have said, that he means a kind of pain in the head, which was inflicted of the devil; but God forbid! For the body of Paul never could have been given over to the hands of the devil, seeing that the devil himself submitted to the same Paul at his mere bidding; and he set him laws and bounds, when he delivered over the fornicator for the destruction of the flesh, and he dared not to transgress them. What then is the meaning of what is said? An adversary is called in the Hebrew, Satan; and in the third Book of Kings the Scripture has so termed such as were adversaries; and speaking of Solomon, says, 'In his days <sup>1 Kings 5, 4.</sup> there was no Satan,' that is, no adversary, enemy, or opponent. What he says then is this: God would not permit the Preaching to progress, in order to check our high thoughts; but permitted the adversaries to set upon us. For this indeed was enough to pluck down his high thoughts; not so that, pains in the head. And so, by the *messenger of Satan*, he means Alexander the coppersmith, the party of Hymenæus and Philetus, all the adversaries of the word; those

HOMIL. who contended with and fought against him, those that cast  
 XXVI. him into a prison, those that beat him, that led him away to  
 ἡ παράγο- death<sup>1</sup>; for they did Satan's business. As then he calls  
 τας those Jews children of the devil, who were imitating his  
 deeds, so also he calls a *messenger of Satan* every one that  
 opposeth. He says therefore, *There was given to me a  
 thorn, that it may buffet me*; not as if God putteth arms  
 into such men's hands, God forbid! but that He doth not  
 chastise, nor punish, but for the time alloweth and permitteth  
 them.

[3.] Ver. 8. *For this thing I besought the Lord thrice.*

- (3.) That is, oftentimes. This also is a mark of great lowliness of mind, his not concealing that he could not bear those insidious plottings, that he fainted under them, and was reduced to pray for deliverance.

Ver. 9. *And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*

That is to say, 'It is sufficient for thee that thou raisest the dead, that thou curest the blind, that thou cleansest lepers, that thou workest those other miracles; seek not also exemption from danger and fear, and to preach without annoyances. But art thou pained and dejected, lest it should seem to be owing to My weakness, that there are many who plot against and beat thee, and harass and scourge thee? Why this very thing doth shew My strength. *For My strength*, He saith, *is made perfect in weakness*, when being persecuted, ye overcome your persecutors; when being harassed, ye get the better of them that harass you; when being put in bonds, ye convert them that put you in bonds. Seek not then what is more than needed.' Seest thou how he himself assigns one reason, and God another? For he himself says, *Lest I should be exalted above measure, there was given to me a thorn*; but he says that God said He permitted it, in order to shew His strength. 'Thou seekest therefore a thing which is not only not needed, but which also obscureth the glory of My power.' For by the words, *is sufficient for thee*, He would signify this, as though nothing else ought to be added, but the whole was complete. So that from this also it is plain, that he does not intend pains in the head; for in truth they did not preach when they were sick, for they



could not preach when ill; but that, harassed and persecuted, <sup>2 Cor. XII.10.</sup> they overcame all. 'After having heard this then,' he says,

*Most gladly therefore will I glory in mine infirmities.* For that they may not sink down, when those false Apostles are glorying over their contrary lot<sup>1</sup>, and these are suffering persecution, he shews that he shineth all the brighter for this, and that thus the power of God shines forth the rather, and what happens is just matter for glorying. Wherefore he says, *Most gladly therefore will I glory.* 'Not as therefore sorrowing did I speak of the things which I enumerated, or of that which I have just now said, *there was given to me a thorn*; but as priding myself upon them, and drawing to myself greater power.' Wherefore also he adds,

*That the power of Christ may rest upon me.* Here he hints at another thing also, namely, that in proportion as the trials waxed in intensity, in the same proportion the grace was increased and continued.

Ver. 10. *Wherefore I take pleasure in many infirmities*<sup>2</sup>. <sup>2 Rec. text, in infirmities'</sup> Of what sort? tell me. *In reproaches, in persecutions, in necessities, in distresses.*

Seest thou how he has now revealed it in the clearest manner? For in mentioning the species of the infirmity he spake not of fevers, nor any return<sup>3</sup> of that sort, nor any<sup>3</sup> <sup>πεπλοδον.</sup> other bodily ailment, but of *reproaches, persecutions, distresses*. Seest thou a single-minded soul? He longs to be delivered from those dangers; but when he heard God's answer that this befitteth not; he was not only not sorry that he was disappointed of his prayer, but was even glad. Wherefore he said, *I take pleasure*, 'I rejoice, I long, to be reproached, persecuted, distressed for Christ's sake.' And he said these things both to check those, and to raise the spirits of these, that they might not be ashamed at Paul's sufferings. For that ground<sup>4</sup> was enough to make them<sup>4</sup> <sup>ἡ ὑπόθεσις</sup> shine brighter than all men. Then he mentions another reason also.

*For when I am weak, then am I strong.*

'Why marvellest thou, that the power of God is then conspicuous? I too am strong *then*;' for then most of all did grace come upon him. *For as His sufferings abound, so c. 1, 5. doth our consolation abound also.*



HOMIL.  
XXVI.

[4.] Where affliction is, there is also consolation; where consolation, there is grace also. For instance, when he was thrown into the prison, then it was he wrought those marvellous things; when he was shipwrecked and cast away upon that barbarous country, then more than ever was he glorified. When he went bound into the judgment-hall, then he overcame even the judge. And so it was too in the Old Testament; by<sup>1</sup> their trials the just flourished. So it was with the three children, so with Daniel, with Moses, and Joseph; thence did they all shine, and were counted worthy of great crowns. For then the soul also is purified, when it is afflicted for God's sake: it then enjoys greater assistance as needing more help, and worthy of more grace. And truly, before the reward which is proposed to it by God, it reaps a rich harvest of good things by becoming philosophic. For affliction rends<sup>2</sup> pride away, and prunes out all listlessness, and exerciseth<sup>3</sup> unto patience: it revealeth the meanness of human things, and leads unto much philosophy. For all the passions give way before it, envy, emulation, lust, rule<sup>3</sup>, desire of riches, of beauty<sup>4</sup>, boastfulness, pride, anger; and the whole remaining swarm of these distempers. And if thou desirest to see this in actual working, I shall be able to shew thee both a single individual, and a whole people, as well under affliction, as at ease; and so to teach thee, how great advantage cometh of the one, and how great listlessness from the other.

(4.) For the people of the Hebrews, when they were vexed and persecuted, groaned and besought God, and drew down upon themselves great influences<sup>5</sup> from above: but when they waxed fat, they kicked. The Ninevites again, when they were in the enjoyment of security, so exasperated God, that He threatened to pluck up the entire city from its foundations: but after they had been humbled by that preaching, they displayed all virtue<sup>6</sup>. But if thou wouldest see also a single individual, consider Solomon. For he, when deliberating with anxiety and trouble concerning the government of that nation, was vouchsafed that vision: but when he was in the enjoyment of luxury, he slid into the very pit of iniquity. And what did his father? When was he admirable and passing belief? Was it not when he was in trials? And Absalom, was he not sober-

<sup>1</sup> or,  
amidst<sup>2</sup> ἀλείφει<sup>3</sup> δυνα-  
στεί-  
<sup>4</sup> σωμά-  
των<sup>5</sup> ῥοπήν<sup>6</sup> φιλο-  
σοφίαν.

minded, whilst still an exile; but after his return, became <sup>2 COR.</sup> both tyrannical, and a parricide? And what did Job? He <sup>XII.11.</sup> indeed shone even in prosperity, but shewed yet brighter after his affliction. And why must one speak of the old and ancient things? for if one do but examine our own state at present, he will see how great is the advantage of affliction. For now indeed that we are in the enjoyment of peace, we are become supine, and lax<sup>1</sup>; and have filled the Church <sup>1 διεργύ-  
ημεν</sup> with countless evils; but when we were persecuted, we were more sober-minded, and kinder, and more earnest, and more ready as to these assemblies, and as to hearing. For what fire is to gold, that is affliction unto souls; wiping away filth, rendering men clean, making them bright and shining. It leadeth unto the kingdom, that unto hell. And therefore the one way is broad, the other narrow. Wherefore also, He Himself said, *In the world ye shall have tribulation*, John 16, as though he were leaving some great good behind unto us. <sup>33.</sup> If then thou art a disciple, travel thou the strait and narrow way, and be not disgusted nor discouraged<sup>2</sup>. For even if <sup>2 ἀποδυ-  
πέτει</sup> thou be not afflicted in that way; thou must inevitably be afflicted on other grounds, of no advantage to thee. For the envious man also, and the lover of money, and he that burneth for an harlot, and the vain-glorious, and each one of the rest that follow whatsoever is evil, endureth many disheartenings and afflictions, and is not less afflicted than they who mourn. And if he doth not weep nor mourn, it is for shame and insensibility: since if thou shouldest look into his soul, thou wilt see it filled with countless waves. Since then whether we follow this way of life or that, we must needs be afflicted: wherefore choose we not this way, which along with affliction bringeth crowns innumerable? For thus hath God led all the saints through affliction and distress, at once doing them service, and securing the rest of men against entertaining a higher opinion of them than they deserve. For thus it was that idolatries gained ground at first; men being held in admiration beyond their desert. Thus the Roman senate decreed Alexander<sup>a</sup> to be the thirteenth God, for it possessed the privilege of electing and enrolling Gods. For instance,

<sup>a</sup> That Alexander the Great had at any rate a Temple dedicated to him, is mentioned by Lampridius.

HOMIL. when all about Christ had been reported, the ruler of the  
 XXVI. nation<sup>b</sup> sent to inquire, whether they would be pleased to elect Him also a God. They however refused their consent, being angry and indignant, that previous to their vote and decree, the Power of the Crucified flashing abroad had won over the whole world to its own worship. But thus it was ordered even against their will, that the Divinity of Christ was not proclaimed by man's decree, nor was He counted one of the many that were by them elected. For they counted even boxers to be Gods, and the favourite of Adrian; after whom the city Antinous is named. For since death testifies against their mortal nature, the devil invented another way, that of the soul's immortality; and mingling therewith that excessive flattery, he seduced many into impiety. And observe what wicked artifice. When we advance that doctrine for a good purpose, he overthrows our words; but when he himself is desirous of framing an argument for mischief, he is very zealous in setting it up. And if any one ask, 'How is Alexander a God? Is he not dead? and miserably too?' 'Yes, but the soul is immortal?' he replies. Now thou arguest and philosophizest for immortality, to detach men from the God Who is over all: but when we declare that this is God's greatest gift, thou persuadest thy dupes that men are low and grovelling, and in no better case than the brutes. And if we say, 'the Crucified lives,' laughter follows immediately: although the whole world proclaims it, both in old time and now; in old time by miracles, now by converts; for truly these successes are not those of a dead man: but if one say, 'Alexander lives,' thou believest, although thou hast no miracle to allege.

[5.] 'Yes,' one replies; 'I have; for when he lived, he wrought many and great achievements; for he subdued both nations and cities, and in many wars and battles he conquered, and erected trophies.'

- (5.) If then I shall shew [somewhat] which he when alive never dreamed of, neither he, nor any other man that ever lived, what other proof of the resurrection wilt thou require?

<sup>b</sup> See Tertull. Apol. Oxf. Trans. p. 13. ii. 2. gives the same account as from and note. Justin Martyr mentions Tertullian, which Chrysostom here Pilate's Report. Eusebius, Hist. Eccles. gives.

For that whilst alive one should win battles and victories, <sup>2 Cor.</sup> being a king, and having armies at his disposal, is nothing XII.10. marvellous, no, nor startling or novel; but that, after a Cross and Tomb, one should perform such great things throughout every land and sea, this it is which is most especially replete with much amazement, and proclaims His divine and unutterable Power. And Alexander indeed after his decease, never restored again his kingdom which had been rent in pieces, and quite abolished: indeed how was it likely he, dead, should do so? but Christ then most of all set up His, after He was dead. And why speak I of Christ? seeing that He granted to His disciples also, after their deaths, to shine? For, tell me, where is the tomb of Alexander? shew it me and tell me the day on which he died. But of the servants of Christ the very tombs are glorious, seeing they have taken possession of the most royal city; and their days are well known, making festivals for the world. And his tomb even his own people know not, but this man's<sup>c</sup> the very barbarians know. And the tombs of the servants of the Crucified are more splendid than the palaces of kings; not for the size and beauty of the buildings, (yet even in this they surpass them,) but, what is far more, in the zeal of those who frequent them. For he that wears the purple himself goes to embrace those tombs, and, laying aside his pride, stands begging the saints<sup>d</sup> to be his advocates with God, and he that hath the diadem implores the tentmaker, and the fisherman, though dead, to be his patrons. Wilt thou dare then, tell me, to call the Lord of these dead; Whose servants, even after their decease, are the patrons of the kings of the world? And this one may see take place not in Rome only, but in Constantinople also. For there also Constantine the Great, his son considered he should be honouring with great honour, if he buried him in the porch of the fisherman, and what porters are to kings in their palaces, that kings are at the tomb to fishermen. And these indeed, as lords of the place, occupy the inside, whilst

<sup>c</sup> St. Paul's, as Mr. Field supposes. and on Rom. 16, 5. Hom. xxxi. Tr.

<sup>d</sup> This passage should have been mentioned in the note at the end of Hom. vi. on the Statues. Tr. p. 134. See also on Statues, Hom. i. Tr. p. 4. p. 486. Compare also St. Augustine, 'On Care for the Dead,' where he discusses the question, whether burial at a Martyr's Memorial is preferable.

HOMIL.  
XXVI. the others, as though but sojourners and neighbours, were glad to have the gate of the porch assigned them; shewing, by what is done in this world, even to the unbelievers, that in the Resurrection the fishermen will be yet more their superiors. For if here it is so in the burials [of each], much more will it in the resurrection. And their rank is interchanged; kings assume that of servants and ministers, and subjects the dignity of kings, yea rather a brighter still. And that this is no piece of flattery, the truth itself demonstrates; for by those these have become more illustrious. For far greater reverence is paid to these tombs, than to the other royal sepulchres; for there indeed is profound solitude, whilst here there is an immense concourse. But if thou wilt compare these tombs with the royal palaces, here again the palm remains with them. For there indeed there are many who keep off, but here many who invite, and draw to them rich, poor, men, women, bond, free; there, is much fear; here, pleasure unutterable. 'But,' saith one, 'it is a sweet sight to look on a king covered with gold and crowned, and standing by his side, generals, commanders, captains of horse and foot, lieutenants. Well, but this of ours is so much grander and more awful, that that must be judged, compared with it, to be stage-scenery<sup>1</sup> and child's play. For the instant thou hast stepped across the threshold, at once the place sends up thy thoughts to heaven, to the King above, to the army of the Angels, to the lofty throne, to the unapproachable glory. And here indeed He hath put in the ruler's power, of his subjects to loose one, and bind another; but the bones of the saints possess no such pitiful and mean authority, but that which is far greater. For they summon demons, and put them to the torture, and loose, from those bitterest of all bonds, those that are bound. What is more fearful than this tribunal? Though no one is seen, though no one plies the sides of the demon, yet are there cries, and tearings<sup>2</sup>, lashes, tortures, burning tongues, because the demon cannot endure that marvellous power. And they that once wore bodies, are victorious over bodiless powers, [their] dust, and bones, and ashes, rack those invisible natures. And therefore in truth it is that none would ever travel abroad to see the palaces of kings, but many kings and often have travelled

<sup>1</sup> σκηνην<sup>2</sup> σπα-  
ραγμοί



to see this spectacle. For the Martyries<sup>e</sup> of the saints exhibit outlines and symbols of the judgment to come : in that <sup>2 COR. XII.10.</sup> demons are scourged, men chastened and delivered. Seest thou the power of saints, even dead ? seest thou the weakness of sinners, even living ? Flee then wickedness, that thou mayest have power over such ; and pursue virtue with all thy might. For if the case be thus here, consider what it will be in the world to come. And as being evermore possessed with this love, lay hold on the life eternal ; whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father together with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and ever, and world without end. Amen.

<sup>e</sup> *μάρτυρια*. See Bingham's Antiquit. book viii. ch. 1. p. 8.

## H O M I L Y    XXVII.

2 COR. xii. 11.

*I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me :  
for I ought to have been commended of you.*

HAVING fully completed what he had to say about his own praises, he did not stay at this; but again excuses himself, and asks pardon for what he said, declaring that his doing so was of necessity, and not of choice. Still, nevertheless, although there was necessity, he calls himself *a fool*. And when he began indeed, he said, *As a fool receive me, and as in folly*; but now, leaving out the '*as*,' he calls himself *a fool*. For after he had established the point he wished, by saying what he did, he afterwards boldly and unsparingly grapples with all failing of the sort, teaching all persons, that none should ever praise himself where there is no necessity, seeing that even where a reason for it existed, Paul termed himself a fool [for so doing]. Then he turns the blame also of his so speaking not upon the false Apostles, but wholly upon the disciples. For *ye*, he saith, *have compelled me*. 'For if they gloried, but were not by doing so leading you astray, nor causing your destruction, I should not have been thus led on to descend unto this discussion: but because they were corrupting the whole Church, with a view to your advantage I was compelled to become a fool.' And he did not say, 'For I feared lest if they obtained the highest estimation with you, they should sow their doctrines,' yet this indeed he set down above when

c. xi. 3. he said, *I fear, lest that by any means as the serpent deceived Eve, so your minds should be corrupted*. Here however he

does not so express himself, but in a more commanding <sup>2 COR.</sup> manner, and with more of authority, having gained boldness XII.12. from what he had said, *For I ought to have been commended of you.* Then he also assigns the reason; and again he mentions not his revelations, nor yet his miracles only, but his temptations also.

*For in nothing am I behind the very chiefest Apostles.* See how he here too again speaks out with greater authoritativeness. For, before indeed he said, *I suppose I was not a whit behind,* but here, after those proofs, he now boldly speaks out asserting the fact, as I said, thus absolutely. Not that even thus he departs from the mean, nor from his proper character. For as though he had uttered something great, and exceeding his deserts, in that he numbered himself with the Apostles, he thus again speaks modestly, and adds,

Ver. 12. *Although I be nothing, the signs of an Apostle were wrought among you.*

'Look not thou at this,' he says, 'whether I be mean and little, but whether thou hast not enjoyed those things, which from an Apostle it was meet thou shouldest enjoy.' Yet he did not say 'mean,' but what was lower, *nothing*. For where is the good of being great, and of use to nobody? even as there is no advantage in a skilful physician, if he heals none of those that be sick. 'Do not then,' he says, 'scrutinize this, that I am nothing, but consider that, that wherein ye ought to have been benefitted, I have failed in nothing, but have given proof of mine Apostleship. There ought then to have been no need for me to say aught.' Now he thus spoke, not as wanting to be commended, (for how should he, he who counted heaven itself to be a small thing in comparison with his longing after Christ?) but as desiring their salvation. Then lest they should say, 'And what is it to us, even though thou wast not a whit behind the very chiefest Apostles?' he therefore added,

*The signs of an Apostle were wrought among you in all patience, and signs, and wonders.* Wonderful! what a sea of good works hath he traversed in a few words! And observe what it is he puts first, *patience*. For this is the note of an Apostle, bearing all things nobly. This then he expressed shortly by a single word; but upon the

HOMIL. XXVII. miracles, which were not of his own achieving, he employs more. For, consider, how many prisons, how many stripes, how many dangers, how many conspiracies, how many sleet-showers of temptations, how many civil, how many foreign wars, how many pains, how many attacks he has implied here in that word, *patience!* And by *signs* again, how many dead raised, how many blind healed, how many lepers cleansed, how many devils cast out! Hearing these things, let us learn, if we happen upon a necessity for such recitals to cut our good deeds short, as he too did.

[2.] Then lest any should say, ‘Well! if thou be both great, and have wrought many things, still thou hast not wrought such great things, as the Apostles have in the other Churches,’ he added,

Ver. 13. *For what is it wherein ye were inferior to other Churches?*

‘Ye were partakers,’ he says, ‘of no less grace than the others.’ But perhaps some one will say, ‘What can be the reason that he turns the discourse upon the Apostles, abandoning the contest against the false Apostles?’ Because he is desirous to erect their spirits yet further, and to shew that he is not only superior to them, but not even inferior to the great Apostles. Therefore, surely, when he is speaking of those he says, *I am more*; but when he compares himself with the Apostles, he considers it a great thing<sup>1</sup> not to be *behind*, although he laboured more than they. And thence he shews, that they insult the Apostles, in holding him who is their equal, second to these men.

<sup>1</sup> ἀγαπῶν-  
τον

*Except it be that I myself was not burdensome to you?* Again he has pronounced their rebuke with great severity. And what follows is of yet more odious import.

*Forgive me this wrong.* Still, nevertheless, this severity contains both words of love, and a commendation of themselves; if, that is, they consider it a wrong done to them, that the Apostle did not consent to receive aught from them, nor relied on them enough to be supported by them. ‘If,’ says he, ‘ye blame me for this:’ he did not say, ‘Ye blame me wrongly,’ but with great sweetness, ‘I ask your pardon, forgive me this fault.’ And observe his prudence. For because the mooted this continually tended to bring disgrace

upon them, he continually softens it down; saying above, <sup>2 Cor. XII.14.</sup> *As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting shall not be stopped in me*; then again, *Because I love you* <sup>c.11,10. c.11,11.</sup> *not? God knoweth. .... But that I may cut off occasion* <sup>12.</sup> *from them that desire occasion, and that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.* And in the former Epistle; *What is my reward then? Verily, that when I preach the* <sup>1 Cor. 9, 18.</sup> *Gospel, I may make the Gospel without charge.* And here; *Forgive me this wrong.* For every where he avoids shewing, that it is on account of their weakness he taketh not [from them]: and here, not to wound them. And therefore here he thus expresses himself; ‘If ye think this to be an offence, I ask forgiveness.’ Now he spoke thus, at once to wound and to heal. For do not say this, I pray thee; ‘If thou meanest to wound, why excuse it? but if thou excusest it, why wound?’ For this is wisdom’s part, at once to lance, and to bind up the sore. Then, that he may not seem, as he also said before, to be continually harping upon this for the sake of receiving from them, he remedies this [suspicion], even in his former Epistle, saying, *But I have* <sup>1 Cor. 9, 15.</sup> *not written these things, that it should be so done unto me; for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void*; but here with more sweetness and gentleness. How, and in what manner?

Ver. 14. *Behold this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be burdensome to you; for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*

What he says, is this; ‘It is not because I do not receive of you, that I do not come to you; nay, I have already come twice, and I am prepared to come this third time, *and I will not be burdensome to you.*’ And the reason is a noble one. For he did not say, ‘because ye are mean,’ ‘because ye are hurt at it,’ ‘because ye are weak:’ but what? *Because I seek not yours, but you.* ‘I seek greater things; souls instead of goods; instead of gold, salvation.’ Then because there still hung about the matter some suspicion, as if he were displeased at them; he therefore even assigns an argument. For since it was likely they would say, ‘Can you not have both us and ours?’ he adds with much grace this excuse



HOMIL. XXVII. for them, saying, *For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children*; instead of teachers and disciples, employing the term parents and children, and shewing that he does as a matter of duty, what was not of duty. For Christ did not so command, but he says this to spare them; and therefore he adds also something further. For he did not only say, that *the children ought not to lay up*, but also that the parents ought to. Therefore since it is meet to give,

Ver. 15. *I will very gladly spend and be spent for your*

<sup>1</sup>Margin souls<sup>1</sup>.  
E. V.

‘For the law of nature indeed has commanded the parents to lay up for the children; but I do not do this only, but I give myself also besides.’ And this lavishness of his, the not only not receiving, but giving also besides, is not in common sort, but accompanied with great liberality, and out of his own want; for the words, *I will be spent*, are of one who would imply this. ‘For should it be necessary to spend my very flesh, I will not spare it for your salvation.’ And that which follows contains at once accusation and love, *though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved*. ‘And I do this,’ he says, ‘for the sake of those who are beloved by me, yet love me not equally.’ Observe then, now, how many

<sup>2</sup> Or, his conduct steps there are in this matter<sup>2</sup>. He had a right to receive, but he did not receive; here is good work the first: and this, though in want; [good work] the second; and though preaching to them, the third; he gives besides, the fourth; and not merely gives, but lavishly<sup>3</sup> too, the fifth; not money only, but himself, the sixth; for those who loved him not greatly, the seventh; and for those whom he greatly loved, the eighth.

<sup>3</sup> μετὰ  
ἐπιτά-  
σεως.

(3.) [3.] Let us then also emulate this man! For it is a serious charge, the not loving even; but becomes more serious, when although one is loved, he loveth not. For if he that loveth one that loveth him, be no better than the publicans; he that doth not as much as this, ranks with the beasts; yea rather, is even below them. What sayest thou, O man? Lovest thou not him that loveth thee? What then dost thou live for? Wherein wilt thou be of use hereafter? in what sort of matters? in public? in private? By no

Matt. 5,  
46.

<sup>4</sup> λοιπόν

means; for nothing is more useless than a man that knows <sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. XII. 15. not to love. This law even robbers have oftentimes respected, and murderers, and housebreakers; and having only taken salt with one, have been made his friends<sup>1</sup>, letting the board change their disposition, and thou that sharest <sup>1</sup> μετε- τρέχοντο not salt only, but words and deeds, and comings in and goings out, with him, dost thou not love? Nay: those that live impurely, lavish even whole estates on their strumpets; and thou, who hast a worthy love, art thou so cold, and weak, and unmanly, as not to be willing to love, even when it costs thee nothing? 'And who,' one asks, 'would be so vile, who such a wild beast, as to turn away from and to hate him that loves him?' Thou dost well indeed to disbelieve it, because of the unnaturalness of the thing; but if I shall shew that there are many such persons, how shall we then bear the shame? For when thou speakest ill of him whom thou lovest, when thou hearest another speak ill of him and thou defendest him not, when thou grudgest that he should be well accounted of, what sort of affection is this? And yet it is not sufficient proof of love, not grudging, nor yet again not being at enmity or war with, but [only] supporting<sup>2</sup> and advancing him that loves thee: but when a <sup>2</sup> συγκροτεῖν man does and says every thing to pull down his neighbour even, what can be more wretched than such a spirit? Yesterday and the day before his friend, thou didst both converse and eat with him: then because all at once thou sawest thine own member highly thought of, casting off the mask of friendship, thou didst put on that of enmity, or rather of madness. For glaring madness it is, to be annoyed at the good of neighbours; for this is the act of mad and rabid dogs. For like them, these also fly at all men's faces, exasperated with envy. Better to have a serpent twining about one's entrails, than envy crawling in us. For that it is often possible to vomit up by means of medicines, or by food to quiet: but envy twineth not in entrails, but harboureth in the bosom of the soul, and is a passion hard to be effaced. And indeed if such a serpent were within one, it would not touch men's bodies, so long as it had a supply of food; but envy, even though thou spread for it ever so endless a banquet, devoureth the soul itself, gnawing on every side,

**HOMIL.** tearing, tugging, and it is not possible to find any palliative  
**XXVII.** for it, whereby to make it quit its madness, save one only, the adversity of the prosperous; so is it appeased, nay rather, not so even. For even should this man suffer adversity, yet still he sees some other prosperous, and is possessed by the same pangs, and every where are wounds, every where blows. For it is not possible to live in the world, and not see persons well reputed of. And such is the extravagance of this distemper, that even if one should shut its victim up at home, he envies the men of old who are dead.

Now, that men of the world should feel in this way, is indeed a grievous thing, yet is it not so very dreadful; but that those who are freed from the turmoils of busy life, should be possessed by this distemper,—this is most grievous of all. And I could have wished indeed to be silent: and if silence took away too the disgrace of those doings, it were a gain to say nothing: if however, though I should hold my peace, the doings will cry out more loudly than my tongue, no harm will accrue from my words, because of their parading<sup>1</sup> these evils before us, but possibly some gain and advantage. For this distemper has infected even the Church, it has turned every thing topsy-turvy, and dissevered the connection of the body, and we stand opposed to each other, and envy supplies us arms. Therefore great is the disruption. For if when all build up, it is a great thing if our disciples stand; when all at once are pulling down, what will the end be?

<sup>1</sup> ἐκπομ-  
 πευομέ-  
 νων

- (4.) [4.] What doest thou, O man? Thou thinkest to pull down thy neighbour's; but before his thou pullest down thine own. Seest thou not them that are gardeners, that are husbandmen, how they all concur in one object? One hath dug the soil, another planted, a third carefully covered the roots, another watereth that is planted, another hedges it round and fortifies it, another drives off the cattle; and all look to one end, the safety of the plant. Here, however, it is not so: but I plant indeed myself, and another shakes and disturbs [the plant.] At least, allow it to get nicely fixed, that it may be strong enough to resist the assault. Thou destroyest not my work, but abandonest thine own. I planted, thou oughtest to have watered. If then thou shake it, thou hast torn it up by the roots, and hast not wherein to display thy

watering. But thou seest the planter highly esteemed. Fear<sup>2 Cor. XII. 15.</sup> not: neither am I any thing, nor thou. *For neither is he<sup>1 Cor. 3,</sup> that planteth nor he that watereth any thing;* one's is the work, God's. So it is with Him thou fightest and warrest, in plucking up what is planted.

Let us then at length come to our sober senses again, let us watch. For I fear not so much the battle without, as the fight within; for the root also, when it is well fitted into the ground, will suffer no damage from the winds; but if it be itself shaken, a worm gnawing through it from within, the tree will fall, even though none molest it. How long gnaw we the root of the Church like worms? For of earth such imaginings are begotten also, or rather not of earth, but of dung, having corruption for their mother; and they cease not from the detestable flattery, that is from women<sup>a</sup>. Let us at length be generous men, let us be champions of philosophy, let us drive back the violent career of these evils. For I behold the mass of the Church prostrate now, as though it were a corpse. And as in a body newly dead, one may see eyes, yea, and hands, and feet, and neck, and head, and yet no one limb performing its proper office; so, truly, here also, all who are here, are of the faithful, but their faith is not active; for we have quenched its warmth, and made the body of Christ a corpse. Now if this sounds awful when said, it is much more awful when it appears in actions. For we have indeed the name of brothers, but do the deeds of foes; and whilst all called members, we are divided against each other like wild beasts. I have said this, not from a desire to parade our condition, but to shame you, and to make you desist. Such and such a man goes into a house; honour is paid to him; thou oughtest to give God thanks, because thy member is honoured, and God is glorified; but thou doest the contrary: thou speakest evil of him to the man that honoured him, so that thou trippest up the heels of both, and, besides, disgracest thyself. And wherefore, wretched and miserable one? Hast thou heard thy brother praised, either amongst men or women<sup>b</sup>? Add to his praises, for so thou shalt praise

<sup>a</sup> Old Lat. 'we cease not;' in either case he means, 'preachers cease not to court such flattery.'

<sup>b</sup> Bened. inserts, 'and hast been grieved,' but the insertion is not countenanced by the Mss.

HOMIL. thyself also. But if thou overthrow the praise, first, thou  
 XXVII. hast spoken evil of thyself, having so acquired an ill character, and thou hast raised him the higher. When thou hearest one praised, become thou a partner in what is said; if not in thy life and virtue, yet still in rejoicing over his excellencies. Hath such an one praised? Do thou too admire: so shall he praise thee also, as a good man, and a candid. Fear not, as though thou wast ruining thine own interest by thy praises of another: for this is [rather] the result of accusation of him. For mankind is of a contentious spirit; and when it sees thee speaking ill of any, it heaps on its praises, wishing to mortify by so doing; and reprobates those that are accusers, both in its own mind, and to others. Seest thou what disgrace we are the causes of to ourselves? how we destroy and rend the flock? Let us at length be members (of one another), let us become one body. And let him that is praised repudiate the praises, and transfer the encomium to his brother; and let him that hears another praised, feel pleasure too himself. If we thus draw together ourselves, we shall also draw unto ourselves the Head; but if we live parted<sup>1</sup> from each other, we shall also put from us the aid which comes from thence; and when that is put aside, the body will receive great damage, not being bound together<sup>2</sup> from above. That this then may not happen, let us, banishing ill will and envy, and despising what the many may think of us, embrace love and concord. For thus we shall obtain both the present good things, and those to come; whereunto may we all attain, through the grace and love toward men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father together with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> διῃκισ-  
μένοι.

<sup>2</sup> σφιγ-  
γόμενον.



## HOMILY XXVIII.

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2 COR. xii. 16—18.

*But be it so, I myself did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile. Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you? I desired Titus, and with him I sent the brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? Walked we not in the same spirit? walked we not in the same steps?*

PAUL has spoken these words very obscurely, but not without a meaning or purpose. For seeing he was speaking about money, and his defence on that score, it is reasonable that what he says should be wrapt in obscureness. What then is the meaning of what he says? He had said, 'I received not, nay I am ready even to give besides, and to spend;' and much discourse is made on this subject, both in the former Epistle and in this. Now he says something else, introducing the subject in the form of an objection, and meeting it by anticipation<sup>1</sup>. What he says<sup>1</sup> προηγουμένου is something like this; 'I indeed have not made a gain of you: but perhaps some one has it to say, that I did not receive [of you] indeed myself, but, being crafty, I procured those who were sent by me, to ask for something of you as for themselves<sup>2</sup>, and through them I myself received, yet keeping myself clear of seeming to receive, by receiving<sup>2</sup> εἰς οἰκεῖον πρόσωπον through others. But none can have this to say either; and you are witnesses.' Wherefore also he proceeds by question, saying, *I desired Titus, and with him I sent the brother. Did Titus make a gain of you?* 'walked he not just as

HOMIL. I walked.' That is to say, neither did he receive. Seest  
 XXVIII. thou how great excess<sup>a</sup> of strictness [is here], in that he not  
 only keeps himself clear of that receiving, but so modulates  
 those also who are sent by him, that he may not give so  
 much as a slight pretence to those who were desirous of  
 attacking him. For this is far greater than that which the

Gen. 14, Patriarch did. For he indeed, when he had returned from  
 24. his victory, and the king would have given him the spoil,  
 refused to accept aught save what those men had eaten; but  
 this man neither himself enjoyed [from them] his necessary  
 food, nor allowed his partners to partake of such: thus with  
 much supererogation stopping the mouths of the shameless.  
 Wherefore he makes no assertion, nor does he say, that they  
 did not receive either; but, what was far more than this, he  
 cites the Corinthians themselves as witnesses that they had  
 received nothing, that he may not seem to be witnessing in  
 his own person, but by their verdict; which course we are  
 accustomed to take in matters fully admitted, and about  
 which we are confident. 'For tell me,' he says, 'Did any

<sup>1</sup> ἐπλεο- one of those who were sent by us make unfair gain<sup>1</sup> of you?'  
 νέκτη- He did not say, 'Did any one receive aught from you?' but  
 σεν. he calls the things 'unfair gain;' attacking them, and shaming  
 them exceedingly, and shewing that to receive of an un-  
 willing [giver] is 'unfair gain.' And he said not 'did Titus?'  
 but, *did any?* 'For ye cannot say this either,' he says, 'that  
 such an one certainly did not receive, but another did. No  
 single one of those who came, did so.' *I desired Titus.*

<sup>2</sup> πληκ- This too is severely<sup>2</sup> said. For he did not say, 'I sent  
 τικῶς. Titus,' but, 'I desired' him; shewing, that if he had received  
 even, he would have done so justly; but, nevertheless, even  
 so he remained pure. Wherefore he asks them again,  
 saying, *Did Titus make a gain of you? Walked we not  
 in the same spirit? What means, in the same spirit?*  
 He ascribes the whole to grace, and shews that the whole  
 of this praise is the good result not of our labours, but of  
 the gift of the Spirit, and of Grace. For it was a very great  
 instance of grace, that although both in want and hunger,  
 they would receive nothing for the edification of the disciples.  
*Walked we not in the same steps?* That is to say, they did

<sup>a</sup> ἐπίτασις. Perhaps, 'additional strictness.'

not depart the least from this strictness, but preserved the same rule entire. 2 Cor. XII. 19. 20.

[2.] Ver. 19. *Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you<sup>b</sup>?*

Seest thou how he is continually in fear, lest he should incur the suspicion of flattery? Seest thou an Apostle's prudence, how constantly he mentions this? For he said before, *We commend not ourselves again, but give you<sup>2 Cor. 5, 12.</sup> occasion to glory*; and in the commencement of the Epistle, *Do we need letters of commendation?* ib. 3, 1.

*But all things are for your edifying.* Again he is soothing them. And he does not here either say clearly, 'on this account we receive not, because of your infirmity;' but, 'in order that we may edify you;' speaking out indeed more clearly than he did before, and revealing that where-with he travailed; but yet without severity. For he did not say, 'because of your infirmity;' but, 'that ye may be edified.'

Ver. 20. *For I fear, lest perchance when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not.*

He is going to say something great and offensive. And therefore he also inserts this excuse [for it], both by saying, *All things are for your edifying*, and by adding, *I fear*, softening the harshness of what was presently going to be said. For it was not here out of arrogance, nor the authority of a teacher, but out of a father's tender concern, when he is more fearful and trembling than the sinners are themselves, at that which is likely to reform them. And not even so does he run them down, nor make an absolute assertion; but says doubtingly, *lest perchance when I come, I shall not find you such as I would.* He did not say, 'not virtuous,' but, *not such as I would*, every where employing the terms of affection. And the words, *I shall find*, are of one who would express what is out of natural expectation, as are also those, *I shall be found by you.* For the thing is not of deliberate choice, but of a necessity originating with you. Wherefore he says, *I shall be found such as ye would not.*

<sup>b</sup> The words in the Rec. Text now Christ,' are found above, where this omitted, 'We speak before God in text is quoted. Hom. vi. p. 80.

HOMIL. XXVIII. He said not here, *such as I would not*, but, with more severity, *such as ye wish not*. For it would in that case become his own will, not indeed what he would first have willed, but his will nevertheless. For he might indeed have said again, ‘*such as I would not*,’ and so have shewed his love: but he wishes not to relax<sup>1</sup> his hearer. Yea rather, his words would in that case have been even harsher; but now he has at once dealt them a smarter blow, and shewed himself more gentle. For this is the characteristic of his wisdom; cutting more deeply, to strike more gently. Then, because he had spoken obscurely, he unveils his meaning, saying,

*Lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, backbitings, whisperings, swellings*<sup>a</sup>.

And what he might well put first, that he puts last: for they were very proud<sup>2</sup> against him. Therefore, that he may not seem principally to be seeking his own, he first mentions (2.) what was common. For all these things were gendered of envy, their slanderings, accusations, dissensions. For just like some evil root, envy produced wrath, accusation, pride, and all those other evils, and by them was increased further,

Ver. 21. *And lest when I come again, my God will humble me among you.*

And the word *again*, too, is as smiting them. For he means, ‘What happened before, is enough;’ as he said also in the i. 18. 23. beginning [of the Epistle], *to spare you, I came not as yet to Corinth*. Seest thou how he shews both indignation and affectionateness? But what means, *will humble me*? And yet this is glorious rather, to accuse, to take vengeance, to call to account, to be seated in the place of judge; howbeit he calls it a humbling. So far was he from being ashamed of that [cause of] humbling, because, *his bodily presence was weak, and his speech contemptible*, that he wished to be even for ever in that case, and deprecated the contrary. And he says this more clearly as he proceeds; and he counts this to be especially humbling, to be involved in such a necessity as the present, of punishing and taking vengeance. And wherefore did he not say, ‘lest when I

<sup>a</sup> The Received Text has ‘strifes’ ‘swellings,’ which Chrysostom omits, after ‘wraths,’ and ‘tumults’ after

come I shall be humbled,' but, *lest when I come my God* <sup>2 Cor. XII. 21.</sup> *will humble me.* 'Because had it not been for His sake, I should have paid no attention, nor been anxious. For it is not as possessing authority, and for my own pleasure, that I demand satisfaction', but because of His commandment.' <sup>1 αὐθαδ- ζόμενος</sup> Now above, indeed, he expressed himself thus, *I shall be found*; here, however, he relaxes and adopts milder and gentler language, saying,

*I shall bewail many who have sinned.* Not simply, *who have sinned*, but,

*Who have not repented.* And he said not, 'all,' but *many*; nor made it clear who these were either, thereby making the return unto repentance easy to them; and to make it plain that a repentance is able to right transgressions, he bewails those that repent not, those who are incurably diseased, those who continue in their wounds. Observe then Apostolic virtue, in that, conscious of no evil in himself, he laments over the evils of others, and is humbled for other men's transgressions. For this is the especial mark of a teacher, so to sympathize with the calamities of his disciples, and to mourn over the wounds of those who are under him. Then he mentions also the specific sin.

*Of the lasciviousness and uncleanness which they have committed.* Now in these words he alludes indeed to fornication; but if one carefully examine the subject, every kind of sin can be called by this name. For although the fornicator and adulterer is preeminently styled unclean, yet still the other sins also produce uncleanness in the soul. And therefore it is that Christ also calls the Jews unclean, not charging them with fornication only, but with wickedness of other kinds as well. Wherefore also He says, that they made both the outside clean, and that *not the* <sup>Mat. 15, 11.</sup> *things which enter in defile the man, but those which come out from him*; and it is said in another place, *Every* <sup>Prov. 16, 5. LXX.</sup> *one that is proud in heart is unclean before the Lord.*

[3.] For nothing is purer than virtue, nothing cleaner <sup>MORAL.</sup> than vice; for the one is brighter than the sun, the other more stinking than mire. And to this they will themselves bear witness, who are wallowing in that mire, and who live in that darkness; at any rate, when one prepares them a little to see



HOMIL. clearly. For as long as they are by themselves, and inebriate  
 XXV!II. with the passion, just as if they were living in darkness, they lie in unseemly wise to their much infamy, conscious even then where they are, although not fully; but after they have seen any of those reprove them who live in virtue, or have seen them only, then they understand their own wretchedness more clearly; and just so as if a sunbeam had darted upon them, they cover up their own unseemliness, and blush before those who know of their doings, yea, though the one be a slave and the other free, though the one be a king and the other a subject. Thus, when Ahab saw Elijah, he was  
 1 Elijah ashamed, even when he<sup>1</sup> had as yet said nothing; standing convicted by the mere sight of him; and when his accuser was silent, he pronounced a judgment condemnatory of himself; uttering the language of such as are caught, and  
 1 Kings saying, *Thou hast found me, O mine enemy!* Thus Elijah  
 21, 20. himself conversed with that tyrant then with great boldness. Thus Herod, unable to bear the shame of those reproofs, (which [shame] the sound of the prophet's tongue with mighty and transparent clearness exposed more evidently,) cast John into the prison: like one who was naked, and attempting to put out the light, that he might be in the dark again; or rather, he himself dared not put it out, but, as it were, placed it in the house under a bushel; and that wretched and miserable woman compelled it to be done. But not even so could they cover the reproof, nay, they lit it up the more. For both they that asked, 'Wherefore doth John dwell in prison?' learnt the reason, and all they that since have dwelt on land or sea, both who then lived, now live, and who shall be hereafter, both have known and shall know clearly these wicked tragedies, both that of their lewdness and that of their bloodguiltiness, and no time shall be able to wipe out the remembrance of them.

- (3.) So great a thing is virtue: so immortal is its memory, so completely even by words only doth it strike down its adversaries. For wherefore did he cast him into the prison? Wherefore did he not despise him? Was he going to drag him before the judgment-seat? Did he demand vengeance upon him for his adultery? Was not what he said then simply a reproof? Why then doth he fear and tremble? Was it not words and talk

merely? But they stung him more than deeds. He led <sup>2 Cor.</sup> him not to any judgment-seat, but he dragged him before <sup>XII.21.</sup> that other tribunal of conscience; and he set as judges upon him all who freely gave their verdicts in their thought. Therefore the tyrant trembled, unable to endure the lustre of virtue. Seest thou how great a thing is philosophy? It made a prisoner more lustrous than a king, and the latter is afraid and trembles before him. He indeed only put him in bonds; but that polluted woman rushed on to his slaughter also, although the rebuke was levelled rather against him, [than herself.] For he did not then meet *her* and say, 'Why cohabitest thou with the king?' not that she was guiltless, (how should she be so?) but he wished by that other means to put all to rights. Wherefore he blamed the king, and yet not him with violence of manner. For he did not say, 'O polluted, and all-polluted, and lawless, and profane, thou hast trodden under foot the law of God, thou hast despised the commandments, thou hast made thy might law.' None of these things; but even in his rebukings great was the gentleness of the man, great his meekness. For, *It is not lawful for thee*, he says, *to have thy brother Philip's wife*. The words are those of one who teacheth rather than reproveth, instructeth rather than chasteneth, who composeth to order rather than exposeth, who amendeth rather than trampleth on him. But, as I said, the light is hateful to the thief, and the mere sight of the just man is odious to sinners; *for he is grievous unto* <sup>Wis 1.2,</sup> *us even to behold*. For they cannot bear his radiance, even <sup>15.</sup> as diseased eyes cannot bear the sun's. But to many of the wicked he is grievous not to behold only, but even to hear of. And therefore that polluted, and all-polluted woman, the procuress of her girl, yea rather her murderess, although she had never seen him, nor heard his voice, rushed on to his slaughter; and prepareth her whom she brought up in lasciviousness, to proceed also to murder, so extravagantly did she fear him.

[4.] And what says she? *Give me here in a charger* <sup>Mat. 14,</sup> *the head of John the Baptist*. Whither rushest thou <sup>8.</sup> over precipices, wretched and miserable one? What? is the accuser before thee? is he in sight and troubleth thee?

HOMIL. Others said, *He is grievous unto us even to behold*; but to  
 XXVIII. her, as I said, he was grievous even to hear of. Wherefore  
 she saith, *Give me here in a charger the head of John*. And yet because of thee he inhabits a prison, and is laden  
 with chains, and thou art free to wanton over thy love, and to  
 say, ‘So completely have I subdued the king, that though  
 publicly reproached he yielded not, nor desisted from his  
 passion, nor tore asunder his adulterous connection with me,  
 but even put him that reproached him in bonds.’ Why art  
 thou mad and rabid, when even after that reproof of his sin  
 thou retainest thy paramour? Why seekest thou a table of  
 furies, and preparest a banquet of avenging demons? Seest  
 thou how nothing-worth<sup>1</sup>, how cowardly, how unmanly, is  
 vice; how when it shall most succeed, it then becomes more  
 feeble? For this woman was not so much disturbed before  
 she had cast John into prison, as she is troubled after he is  
 bound, and she is urgent, saying, *Give me here in a charger  
 the head of John*. And wherefore so? ‘I fear,’ she says,  
 ‘lest there be any<sup>2</sup> hushing up of his murder, lest any  
 should rescue him from his peril.’ And wherefore requirest  
 thou not the whole corpse, but the head? ‘The tongue,’ she  
 says, ‘that pained me, that I long to see silent.’ But the  
 contrary will happen, as indeed it also hath done, thou  
 wretched and miserable one! it will cry louder afterwards,  
 when it is cut out. For then indeed it cried in Judæa only,  
 but now it will reach to the ends of the world; and wheresoever  
 thou enterest into a church, whether it be among the Moors,  
 or among the Persians, or even unto the British isles them-  
 selves, thou hearest John crying, *It is not lawful for thee to  
 have thy brother Philip’s wife*. But she, unknowing to reason  
 in any such way, urges and presses<sup>3</sup>, and thrusts on the  
 senseless tyrant to the murder, fearing lest he change his  
 mind. But from this too learn thou again the power of  
 virtue. Not even when shut up, and bound, and silent,  
 does she bear the righteous man. Seest thou how weak  
 a thing vice is? how unclean? For in the place of meats  
 it bringeth in a human head upon a charger.

<sup>1</sup> οὐδα-  
μινόν

<sup>2</sup> συσκι-  
ασθη δ  
φόνος

<sup>3</sup> ἔρχει

What is more polluted, what more accursed, what more  
 immodest, than that damsel? what a voice she uttered in  
 that theatre of the devil, in that banquet of demons! Seest

thou this tongue and that; the one bringing healthful <sup>2 Cor. XII.21.</sup> medicines, the other one with poison on it, and made the purveyor to a devilish banquet. But wherefore did she not command him to be murdered within there, at the feast, when her pleasure would have been greater? She feared lest if he should come thither and be seen, he should change them all by his look, by his boldness. Therefore surely (4.) it is that she demandeth his head, wishing to set up a bright trophy of fornication; and gave it to her mother. Seest thou the wages of dancing, seest thou the spoils of that devilish plot? I mean not the head of John, but her paramour himself. For if one examine it carefully, against the king that trophy was set up, and the victress was vanquished, and the beheaded was crowned, and proclaimed victor, even after his death shaking more vehemently the hearts of the offenders. And that what I have said is no [mere] boast, ask of Herod himself; who, when he heard of the miracles of Christ, said, *This is John, he is risen from the dead: and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.* <sup>Mat. 14, 2.</sup> So lively<sup>1</sup> was the fear, so abiding the agony he retained; <sup>1 ἀκμῆς-ζῶντα.</sup> and none had power to cast down the terror of his conscience, but that incorruptible Judge continued to take him by the throat, and day by day to demand of him satisfaction for the murder. Knowing, then, these things, let us not fear to suffer evil, but to do evil; for that indeed is victory, but this defeat.

Wherefore also Paul said, *Why do ye not rather suffer wrong, why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded.* <sup>1 Cor. 6, 7. 8.</sup> *Nay, ye do wrong and defraud, and that your brethren.* For by the suffering evil [come] those crowns, those prizes, that proclamation [of victory]. And this may be seen in all the saints. Since then they all were thus crowned, thus proclaimed, let us too travel this road, and let us pray indeed that we enter not into temptation; but if it should come, let us make stand with much manliness and display the proper readiness of mind, that we may obtain the good things to come, through the grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, with Whom to the Father, together with the Holy Ghost, be glory, might, honour, now and for ever, and world without end. Amen.

## H O M I L Y XXIX.

2 COR. xiii. 1.

*This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*

<sup>1</sup>φιλοσο-  
φίαν.

εγγχει

THE wisdom<sup>1</sup> of Paul and his much tender affection, one may observe in many other circumstances, but especially in this, his being so abundant and vehement in his admonitions, but so tardy and procrastinating in his punishments. For he did not chastise them immediately on their sinning, but warned them once and again; and not even so, upon their paying no attention, does he exact punishment, but warns again, saying, *This is the third time I am coming to you; and 'before I come I write again.'* Then, that his procrastinating may not produce indifference, see how he corrects this result also, by threatening continually, and holding the blow suspended over them, and saying, *If I come again I will not spare; and, lest when I come again I shall bewail many.* These things, then, he doeth and speaketh, in this too imitating the Lord of all: because that God also threateneth indeed continually, and warneth often, but not often chastiseth and punisheth. And so in truth also doth Paul, and therefore he said also before, *To spare you, I came not as yet to Corinth.* What is, *to spare you?* Lest finding you to have sinned, and to continue unamended, I should visit with chastisement and punishment. And here, *This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.* He joins the unwritten to the written, as he has done also in another



place, saying, *He that is joined to an harlot is one body*; <sup>2 COR. XIII.2.</sup> *for the two, saith He, shall be one flesh.* Howbeit, this was <sup>1 Cor.6, 16.</sup> spoken of lawful marriage; but he diverted its application <sup>1 ἀπε-  
χρή-  
σατο.  
2 i. e.</sup> unto this thing<sup>2</sup> conveniently, so as to terrify them the more. And so he doth here also, setting his comings and his warnings in the place of witnesses. And what he says <sup>fornica-  
tion</sup> is this: 'I spoke once and again when I was with you; I speak also now by letter. And if indeed ye attend to me, what I desired is accomplished; but if ye pay no attention, it is necessary henceforth to stop speaking, and to inflict the punishment.' Wherefore he says,

Ver. 2. *I told you before, and foretell you as if I were present the second time; and being absent now, I write to them, which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that if I come again, I will not spare.*

'For if in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established, and I have come twice and spoken, and speak now also by this Epistle; it follows, I must after this keep my word<sup>3</sup>. For think not, I pray you, that my writing<sup>3 ἀλη-  
θεύσαι.</sup> is of less account than my coming; for as I spoke when present, so now I write also when absent.' Seest thou his paternal solicitude? Seest thou forethought becoming a teacher? He neither kept silence, nor punished, but he both foretells often, and continues ever threatening, and puts off the punishment, and if they should continue unamended, then he threatens to bring it to the proof. 'But what didst thou tell them before when present, and when absent writest?' *That if I come again, I will not spare.* Having shewed before that he is unable to do this unless he is compelled, and having called the thing a bewailing, and a humbling; (for he saith, *lest my c.12,21.* *God will humble me among you, and I shall bewail many of those which have sinned already, and have not repented;*) and having made his excuse unto them, namely, that he had told them before, once and twice and thrice, and that he does and contrives all he can, so as to hold back the punishment, and by the fear of his words to make them better, he then used this displeasing and terrifying expression, *If I come again, I will not spare.* He did not say, 'I will avenge, and punish, and exact satisfaction:' but again expresses even punishment itself in paternal language; shewing his

HOMIL. tender affection, and his heart to be grieved along with  
XXIX. them; because that he always to *spare* them put off.

Then that they may not think now also, that there will be again a putting off, and merely a threat in words, therefore  
v. 1. he both said before, *In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established*; and [now], *If I come again, I will not spare*. Now what he means is this: ‘I will no longer put off, if (which God forbid) I find you unamended; but will certainly visit it, and make good what I have said.’

[2.] Then with much anger and vehement indignation against those who make a mock of him as weak, and  
c. 10, 10. ridicule his presence, and say, *his presence is weak, and*  
I ἀποτει-  
νόμενος *his speech contemptible*; aiming his efforts<sup>1</sup> at these men, he says,

Ver. 3. *Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me.*

For he said this, dealing at once a blow at these, and at  
2 i. e. the Co-  
rinthi-  
ans  
them-  
selves the same time lashing those<sup>2</sup> also. Now what he means is this; ‘Since ye are desirous of proving whether Christ dwelleth in me, and call me to an account, and on this score make a mock of me as mean and despicable, as if I were destitute of that Power: ye shall know that we are not destitute, if ye give us occasion, which God forbid.’ What then? tell me. Dost thou therefore punish, because they seek a proof? ‘No,’ he says; for had he sought this, he would have punished them at the first on their sinning, and would not have put off. But that he does not seek this,  
v. 7. he has shewn more clearly as he proceeds, saying, *Now I pray that ye do no evil, not that we may appear approved, but that ye may be approved, though we be as reprobates.*

He doth not employ those words then as assigning a  
3 αἰτιολο-  
γικῶς reason<sup>3</sup>, but rather in indignation, rather as attacking those that despise him. ‘For,’ he says, ‘I have no desire indeed to give you such a proof, but if ye yourselves should furnish cause, and should choose to challenge me, ye shall know by very deeds.’ And observe how grievous he makes what he says. For he said not, ‘Since ye seek a proof of me,’ but *of Christ speaking in me*, shewing that it was against Him they sinned. And he did not say merely, ‘dwelling in me,’ but *speaking in me*, shewing that his words are spiritual.

But if He doth not display His power, nor punish, (for <sup>2 COR.</sup> thenceforward the Apostle transferred what he said from <sup>XIII.</sup> himself to Christ, thus making his threat more fearful,) it <sup>3, 4.</sup> is not from weakness; for He can do it: but from long-suffering. Let none then think His forbearance to be weakness. For why marvellest thou that He doth not now proceed against sinners, nor in His forbearance and long-suffering exact satisfaction, seeing that He endured even to be crucified, and though suffering such things, punished not? Wherefore also he added,

Ver. 3, 4. *Which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you. For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth by the Power of God.*

These words have much obscurity, and give disturbance to the weaker sort. Wherefore it is necessary to unfold them more clearly, and to explain the signification of the expression here used as to which the obscurity exists, that no one may be offended, even of the simpler sort. What then, at all, is that which is here said, and what the term *weakness* designates, and in what signification it is used, it is necessary to learn. For the term is indeed one, but it has many meanings. For bodily sickness is termed 'weakness:' whence it is even said in the Gospel, *Behold, John 11, he whom Thou lovest is weak*<sup>1</sup>, concerning Lazarus; and <sup>3, 4.</sup> *He Himself said, This weakness is not unto death*; and <sup>ἰσθὲν ἐν εἴ,</sup> Paul, speaking of Epaphras, *For indeed he was weak nigh* <sup>E. V. is</sup> *unto death, but God had mercy on him*; and of Timothy, <sup>sick.</sup> *Use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often* <sup>Phil. 2,</sup> *weaknesses*. For all these denote bodily sickness. Again, <sup>27.</sup> the not being fixed singly in the faith is called 'weakness;' the not being perfect and complete. And denoting this Paul said, *Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not* <sup>1 Tim. 5,</sup> *to doubtful disputations*: and again, *One believeth that he* <sup>23.</sup> *may eat all things; another, who is weak, eateth herbs*, denoting him who is weak in the faith. Here then are two significations of the term 'weakness;' there is yet a third thing which is called 'weakness.' What then is this? Persecutions, plottings, insults, temptations, assaults. And denoting this Paul said, *For this thing I besought the Lord* <sup>Rom. c. 12, 8.</sup> *thrice. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for* <sup>9.</sup>

HOMIL. *thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.* What  
 XXIX. *is in weakness?* In persecutions, in dangers, in temptations,

<sup>1</sup> E. V. *Wherefore, I take pleasure in weakness*<sup>1</sup>. Then, shewing  
 infirm-  
 ities what kind of weakness he means, he spake not of fever,

c. 12,<sup>10</sup>. or of doubt about the faith; but what? *in reproaches,*  
*in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments,*  
*that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For when*

*I am weak, then am I strong.* That is to say, 'when I am  
 persecuted, when I am driven up and down, when I am  
 plotted against, then am I strong, then the rather I prevail  
 over, and get the better of them that plot against me,

<sup>2</sup> ἐν ἡ-  
 νόσῃς because that grace resteth upon<sup>2</sup> me more largely. It is  
 νόσῃς then in this third sense that Paul useth *weakness*; and this  
 is what he means by it; aiming again, as I said also before, at  
 that point, his seeming to them to be mean and contemptible.  
 For indeed he had no desire to boast, nor to seem to be  
 what he really was, nor yet to display the power which he  
 possessed of punishing and avenging; whence also he was  
 accounted to be mean. When then as so accounting they  
 were going on in great indifference and insensibility, and  
 repented not of their sins, he seizes a favourable opportunity,  
 discourses with much vigour upon these points also, and  
 shews that it was not from weakness he did nothing, but  
 from long-suffering.

[3.] Then, as I said, by transferring the argument from him-  
 self to Christ, he enhances their fear, he increases his threat.  
 And what he says is this; 'for even supposing I should do  
 something and chastise and take vengeance on the guilty  
 ones, is it I that chastise and take vengeance? it is He that  
 dwelleth in me, Christ Himself. But if ye do not believe  
 this, but are desirous of receiving a proof by deeds of Him  
 that dwelleth in me, ye shall know presently; *For He is not*  
*weak to you-ward, but is even mighty.*' And wherefore  
 added he *to you-ward*, seeing He is mighty every where?  
 for should He be minded to punish unbelievers, He is able;  
 or demons, or any thing whatsoever. What then is the  
 import of the addition? The expression is either as shaming  
 them exceedingly, by remembrance of the proofs they have  
 already received; or else as declaring this, that mean while



He shews His power in you who ought to be corrected. <sup>2 Cor.</sup>  
 As he said also in another place, *For what have I to do to* <sup>XIII.4.</sup>  
*judge them also that are without?* 'For those that are <sup>1 Cor.</sup>  
 without,' he says, 'He will then call to account in the day of <sup>5, 12.</sup>  
 judgment, but you even now, so as to rescue you from that  
 punishment.' But nevertheless even this instance of his  
 solicitude, although arising from tender affection, observe  
 how he combines with fear and much anger, saying, *Who to*  
*you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you.*

Ver. 4. *For though He was crucified through weakness,*  
*yet He liveth by the Power of God.*

What is, *though He was crucified through weakness?*  
 'For though He chose,' he says, 'to endure a thing which  
 seems to carry a notion of weakness, still this in no way  
 breaks in upon<sup>1</sup> His Power. That still remains invincible, <sup>1 διακόπ-</sup>  
 and that thing which seemeth to be of weakness, hath nothing <sup>τε</sup>  
 harmed it, nay this very thing itself shews His Power most  
 of all, in that He endured even such a thing, and yet His  
 Power was not mutilated<sup>2</sup>.' Let not then the expression <sup>2 ἡκρω-</sup>  
*weakness* disturb thee; for elsewhere also he says, *The* <sup>τηριδσ-</sup>  
*foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of* <sup>θη</sup>  
*God is stronger than men;* although in God is nothing <sup>1 Cor.</sup>  
 either foolish or weak: but he called the Cross so, as  
 setting forth the conception of the unbelieving regarding it.  
 Hear him, at least, interpreting himself. *For the preaching* <sup>Ib. 18.</sup>  
*of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us*  
*which are saved it is the power of God.* And again; *But we* <sup>Ib. 23,</sup>  
*preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block,* <sup>24.</sup>  
*and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are*  
*called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and*  
*the wisdom of God.* And again; *But the natural man re-* <sup>1 Cor.</sup>  
*ceiveth not the things of the Spirit, for they are foolishness* <sup>2, 14.</sup>  
*unto him.* Observe, how in every place he expresseth the  
 conception of the unbelieving, who look upon the Cross as  
 foolishness and weakness. And so, in truth, here also he  
 means not *weakness* really such, but what was suspected to  
 be such with the unbelieving. He doth not then say this,  
 that because He was weak He was crucified. Away with  
 the thought! For that He had it in His power not to have  
 been crucified He shewed throughout; when He now cast  
 men down prostrate, now turned back the beams of the sun,



HOMIL. and withered a fig-tree, and blinded their eyes that came  
XXIX. against Him, and wrought ten thousand other things. What then is this which he says, *through weakness*? That even although He was crucified after enduring peril and treachery, (for we have shewed that peril and treachery are called weakness,) yet still He was nothing harmed thereby. And he said this to draw the example unto his own case. For since the Corinthians beheld them persecuted, driven about, despised, and not avenging nor visiting it, in order to teach them that neither do they so suffer from want of power<sup>1</sup>, nor from being unable to visit it, he leads on the argument up to The Master, because ‘He too,’ saith he, ‘was crucified, was bound, suffered ten thousand things, and He visited them not, but continued to endure things which appeared to argue weakness, and in this way displaying His Power, in that although He punishes not nor requites, He is not injured any thing at all. For instance, the Cross did not cut asunder His life, nor yet impeded His resurrection, but He both rose again and liveth.’ And when thou hearest of the Cross and  
<sup>1</sup> ἀτονίαν of life, expect to find the doctrine concerning the Incarnation<sup>2</sup>,  
<sup>2</sup> τῆς οὐ- for all that is said here hath reference to that. And if he  
κονομίας says *by the Power of God*, it is not as though He were Him- self void of strength to quicken His flesh; but it was indifferent with him to mention either Father or Son. For when he said, *by the Power of God*, he said by His own Power. For that both He Himself raised it up and  
John 2, sustains it, hear Him saying, *Destroy this temple, and in  
19. three days I will raise it up.* But if that which is His, this he<sup>3</sup> saith to be the Father’s, be not disturbed; For,  
<sup>3</sup> i. e. Paul. He saith, *all My Father’s things are Mine.* And again,  
John 16, *All Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine.* ‘As then He that  
15. was crucified was nothing harmed,’ he says, ‘so neither are  
1b. 17, we, when persecuted and warred against;’ wherefore also he  
10. adds,

<sup>4</sup> εἰ, οὐκ. *For even we also if<sup>4</sup> we are weak in Him, yet shall live  
R. T. in Him, by the Power of God<sup>5</sup>.*

<sup>5</sup> toward you.’ R. T. What is the meaning of *we are weak in Him*? We are persecuted, are driven here and there, suffer extremity. But what is *in Him*? ‘Because of the preaching,’ he says, ‘and our faith in Him. But if for His sake we undergo what is sad and disagreeable, it is quite plain that we shall what

is pleasant also:’ and so he added, *but we are saved with Him by the Power of God.* 2 COR.  
XIII.  
5, 6.

[4.] Ver. 5, 6. *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, that Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? But I trust ye shall know that we are not reprobates.*

For since by what he has said he hath shewn, that even if he does not punish, it is not because he hath not Christ in himself, but because he imitates His long-suffering, Who was crucified, and yet avenged not Himself; he again, in another manner, produces the same effect, and still more irrefragably<sup>1</sup>, <sup>ἐκ</sup> establishing his argument by the disciples. ‘For why speak I of myself,’ he says ‘the teacher, who have so much care <sup>πλείονος</sup> upon me, and am entrusted with the whole world, and have done such great miracles. For if ye will but examine yourselves, who are in the rank of disciples, ye will see that Christ is in you also. But if in you, then much more in your teacher. For if ye have faith, Christ is in you also.’ For they who believed at that time, wrought miracles. Wherefore also he added, *Examine yourselves, prove your selves, whether ye be in the faith. Know ye not your own selves, how that Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?* ‘But if in you, much more in your teacher?’ He seems to me here to term *faith* even that which relates to miracles. ‘For if ye have that faith,’ he says, *Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates.* Seest thou, how again he terrifies them, and shews even to (4.) superfluity that Christ is with him. For he seems to me to be here alluding to them, even as to their lives. For since faith is not enough [by itself] to draw down the energy of the Spirit, and he had said that ‘*if ye are in the faith* ye have Christ in you,’ and it happened that many who had faith were destitute of that energy; in order to solve the difficulty, he says, *except ye be reprobates*, except [that is] ye are corrupt in life. *But I trust ye shall know that we are not reprobates.* What followed naturally was to have said, “but if ye are reprobates, yet we are not.” He doth not, however, say so, for fear of wounding them, but he hints it in an obscure manner, without either making the assertion thus, ‘ye are reprobates,’ or proceeding by question and saying, ‘But if ye are reprobates,’ but leaving out even this way of putting it

HOMIL. by question, he indicates it obscurely by adding, *But I*  
 XXIX. *trust ye shall know that we are not reprobates.* Here also, again, great is the threat, great the alarm. 'For since ye desire,' he says, 'in this way, by your own punishment, to receive the proof, we shall have no difficulty in giving you that demonstration.' But he does not indeed so express himself, but with more weight and threatening. *But I trust ye shall know that we are not reprobates.* 'For ye ought indeed,' he saith, 'to have known even without this what we are<sup>1</sup>, and that we have Christ speaking and working in us ; but since ye desire to receive the proof of it by deeds also, ye shall know that we are not reprobates.' Then when he has held the threat suspended over their heads, and brought the punishment now up to their doors, and has set them a trembling, and made them look for vengeance ; see how again he sweetens down his words, and soothes their fear, and shews his unambitious temper, his tender solicitude towards his disciples, his high-principledness of purpose, his loftiness and freedom from vain-gloriousness. For he exhibits all these qualities in what he adds, saying,

<sup>1</sup> τὰ ἡμέ-  
τερα.

<sup>2</sup> do  
E. V.

Ver. 7, 8, 9. *Now I pray to God that ye have done<sup>2</sup> no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. For we are glad when we are weak, and ye are strong. For this also we wish even your perfection.*

[5.] What can be equal to this soul ? He was despised, he was spit upon, he was ridiculed, he was mocked, as mean, as contemptible, as a braggart, as boastful in his words, but in his deeds unable to make even a little show ; and although seeing so great a necessity for shewing his own power, he not only puts off, not only shrinks back, but even prays that he may not fall into such a position. For he says, *I pray that ye have done no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.* What is it he says ? 'I entreat God. I beseech Him,' he says, 'that I may find no one unreformed, may find no one that has not repented ? yea, rather, not this alone, but that none may have sinned at all. For,' he says, '*that ye have*

*done no [evil]*, but if ye have perchance sinned, then that ye <sup>2 COR.</sup> may have changed your conduct, and been beforehand with <sup>XIII.</sup> 7, 8, 9. me in reforming, and arresting all wrath. For this is not what I am eager about, that we should be approved in this way, but clean the contrary, that we should not appear approved. For if ye should continue,' he says, 'sinning and not repenting, it will be necessary for us to chastise, to punish, and to maim your bodies; (as happened in the case of Sapphira and of Magus;) and we have given proof of our power. But we pray not for this, but the contrary, that we may not be shewn to be approved in this way, that we may not in this way exhibit the proof of the power which is in us, by chastising you and punishing you as sinning, and as incurably diseased, but what? *That ye should do that which is honest*, we pray for this, that ye should ever live in virtue, ever in amendment; *and we should be as reprobates*, not displaying our power of punishing.' And he said not, *reprobates*, for he would not *be* reprobate, even though he did not punish, nay rather for this very reason he would be *approved*; 'but even if some suspect us,' he says, 'on account of our not displaying our power, to be contemptible and cast away, we care nothing for this. Better we should be so deemed of by those, than display the power which God hath given to us in those stripes, and in that unreformedness of heart.'

*For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.* For that he may not seem [merely] to be gratifying them, (for this is what one who was void of vain-glory might do,) but to be doing what the nature of the thing demanded, he added this, *for we can do nothing against the truth.* 'For if we find you,' he says, 'in good repute, having driven away your sins by repentance, and having boldness towards God; we shall not be able thereafter, were we never so willing, to punish you, but should we attempt it even, God will not work with us. For to this end gave He us our power, that the judgment we should give should be true and righteous, not contrary to the truth.' Seest thou how in every way he can, he makes what he says void of offensiveness, and softens the harshness of his menace? Moreover, as he has eagerly endeavoured this, so is he desirous also to shew that his mind was quite joined<sup>1</sup> to them; wherefore also he added, *For we are glad* <sup>1</sup> ὡς κεῖνω-  
μένην.



HOMIL.  
XXIX. *when we are weak and ye are strong, and this also we wish, even your perfection.* ‘For most certainly,’ he says, ‘we cannot do any thing against the truth, that is, punish you if you are well pleasing [to God]; besides, because we cannot, we therefore do not wish it, and even desire the contrary. Nay, we are particularly glad of this very thing, when we find you giving us no occasion to shew that power of ours for punishment. For even if the doing of such things shews men glorious, and approved, and strong; still we desire the contrary, that ye should be approved and unblamable, and that we should never at any time reap the glory thence arising.’ Wherefore he says, *For we are glad when we are weak.* What is, *are weak*? ‘When we may be thought weak.’ Not when we are weak, but when we are thought weak; for they were thought so by their enemies, because they displayed not their power of punishing. ‘But still we are glad, when your conversation is of such a sort, as that ye give us no pretence for punishing you. And it is a pleasure to us, to be in this way considered weak, so that only ye be blameless;’ wherefore he adds, *and ye are strong*, that is, ‘are approved, are virtuous. And we do not only wish for this, but we pray for this, that ye may be blameless, perfect, and afford us no handle.’

- (5.) [6.] This is paternal affection, to prefer the salvation of the disciples before his own good name. This is the part of a soul free from vain-glory; this best releaseth from the bonds of the body, and makes one to rise aloft from earth to heaven, the being pure from vain-glory; just as therefore the contrary leadeth unto many sins. For it is impossible, that one who is not pure from vain-glory, should be lofty and great and noble; but he must needs grovel on the ground, and do much damage, whilst the slave of a polluted mistress, more cruel than any barbarian. For what can be fiercer than she, who, when most courted, is then most savage? Even wild beasts are not this, but are tamed by much attention. But vain-glory is quite the contrary, by being contemned she is made tame, by being honoured she is made savage, and is armed against her honourer. The Jews honoured her, and were punished with exceeding severity; the disciples slighted her, and were crowned. And



why speak I of punishment and crowns? for to this very point of being seen to be glorious, it contributes more than any thing, to spit upon vain-glory. And thou shalt see, even in this world, that they who honour it are damaged, whilst those who slight it are benefitted. For the disciples who slighted it, (for there is no obstacle to our using the same example again,) and preferred the things of God, outshine the sun, having gained themselves an immortal memory even after their death; whilst the Jews who crouched<sup>1</sup> to it are become<sup>1</sup> cityless, hearthless, degraded, fugitives, exiles, mean, contemptible. Do thou, therefore, if thou desirest to receive glory, repel glory; but if thou pursuest glory, thou shalt miss glory. And, if ye will, let us also try this doctrine in worldly matters. For whom do we make sport of in our jests? Is it not of those, whose minds are set upon it? Certainly then, these men are the most entirely destitute of it, having countless accusers, and being slighted by all. And whom do we admire, tell me; is it not those who despise it? Certainly then, these are they that are glorified. For as he is rich, not who is in need of many things, but who is in need of nothing; so he is glorious, not who loveth glory, but who despiseth it; for this glory is but a shadow of glory. No one, having seen a loaf painted, though he should be pressed with hunger ever so much, will attack the picture. Neither then do thou pursue these shadows, for this is a shadow of glory, not glory. And that thou mayest know that this is the manner of it, and that it is a shadow, consider this that it must be so, when the thing hath a bad name amongst men, when all consider it a thing to be avoided, they even who desire it; and when he who hath it and he who covets it are ashamed to be called after it. ‘Whence then is this desire,’ saith one, ‘and how is the passion engendered?’ By littleness of soul, (for one ought not only to accuse it, but also to correct it,) by an imperfect mind, by a childish judgment. Let us then cease to be children, and let us become men: and let us every where pursue the reality, not the shadows, both in wealth, and in pleasure, and in luxury, and in glory, and in power; and this disease will cease, and many others also. For to pursue shadows is a madman’s part. Wherefore also Paul said, *Awake to righteousness, and sin not.* For there is yet

2 Cor.  
XIII.  
7, 8, 9.

<sup>1</sup> ὑπο-  
κατακλι-  
θέντες.

1 Cor.  
15, 34.

HOMIL. another madness, sorer than that caused by devils, than that  
 XXIX. from frenzy. For that admits of forgiveness, but this is  
 destitute of excuse, seeing the soul itself is corrupted, and  
 its right judgment lost; and that of frenzy indeed is an affec-  
 tion of the body, but this madness hath its seat in the artificer  
 mind. As then of fevers those are sorer, yea incurable, which  
<sup>1</sup> ἐνδομν- seize upon firm bodies, and lurk in the recesses<sup>1</sup> of the nerves,  
<sup>2</sup> τῶν αὐτῶν and are hidden away in the veins, so truly is this madness  
 also, seeing it lurks in the recesses of the mind itself, pervert-  
 ing and destroying it. For how is it not clear and evident  
 madness, yea, a distemper sorer than any madness, to despise  
 the things which abide for ever, and to cling with great  
 eagerness to those which perish? For, tell me, if one were  
 to chase the wind or try to hold it, should we not say that  
 he was mad? And what? if one should grasp a shadow and  
 neglect the reality<sup>2</sup>; if one should hate his own wife, and  
 embrace her shadow; or loathe his son, and again love his  
 shadow, wouldest thou seek any other clearer sign in proof  
 of madness? Such are they also who greedily follow the  
 present things. For they are all shadow, yea, whether thou  
 mention glory, or power, or good report, or wealth, or luxury,  
 or any other thing of this life. And therefore truly it is that  
 Ps.39,6. the prophet said, *Surely man walketh in a shadow, yea, he*  
 Ps. 102, *disquieteth himself in vain*; and again, *Our days decline*  
 11. *like a shadow*. And in another place, he calls human things,  
 smoke, and the flower of grass. But it is not only his good  
 things which are shadow, but his evils also, whether it be  
 death thou mention, or poverty, or disease, or any other  
 thing. What then are those things which abide, both good  
 and evil? The eternal kingdom, and the everlasting hell.  
 Mark 9, *For neither shall the worm die, nor shall the fire be quenched*:  
 44. *and these shall rise again to everlasting life: and these to*  
 Mat. 25, *everlasting punishment*. That then we may escape the one,  
 46. and enjoy the other, letting go the shadow, let us cling to  
 the real things, with all earnestness, for so shall we obtain  
 the kingdom of heaven, which may we all obtain through the  
 grace and love towards men of our Lord Jesus Christ, to  
 Whom be glory and might for ever and ever. Amen.

## HOMILY XXX.

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2 COR. xiii. 10.

*Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.*

HE was sensible he had spoken more vehemently than his wont, and especially towards the end of the Epistle. For he said before, *Now I Paul exhort you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold towards you. But I beseech you that I may not be bold when I am present, with that confidence wherewith I think to be bold against some which think of us as though we walked according to the flesh; and, having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled: and, I fear lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and I shall be found unto you such as ye would not; and again, lest when I come my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the lasciviousness and uncleanness which they have committed: and afterwards, I told you before and foretell you, if I were present the second time, and being absent now I write, that, if I come again, I will not spare; since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me. Since then he had said these things and more besides, terrifying, shaming, reproaching, lashing them, in excuse for all, he says, Therefore I*

<sup>cap. 10,</sup>  
<sup>1. 2.</sup>

<sup>ib. 6.</sup>

<sup>c. 12, 20.</sup>

<sup>ib. 21.</sup>

<sup>c. 13,</sup>  
<sup>2. 3.</sup>

HOMIL.  
XXX. *write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness.* For I am desirous the sharpness should lie in my letters, and not in my deeds. I wish my threats to be vehement, that they may continue threats, and never go forth into action. Again, even in this his apology he makes what he says more terrible, shewing that it is not himself who is to punish, but God; for he added, *according to the power which the Lord hath given me;* and again, to shew that he desires not to use his power to their punishment, he added, *not to destruction, but to edification.* And he hinted indeed this now, as I said, but he left it to them to draw the conclusion, that if they should continue unamended, even this again is edification, to punish those that are of such a mind. For so it is, and he knew it, and shewed it by his deeds.

<sup>1</sup> Τὸ λοι-  
πὸν, R.  
T. Δοι-  
πὸν Ver. 11. *For the rest<sup>1</sup>, brethren, rejoice, be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

What means, *for the rest, brethren, rejoice?* Thou hast pained, terrified, thrown them into an agony, made them to tremble and fear, and how biddest thou them rejoice? 'Why, for this very reason I bid them rejoice. For,' he says, 'if what is your part follow upon mine, there will be nothing to prevent that joy. For all my part has been done; I have suffered long, I have delayed, I have forborne to cut off, I have besought, I have advised, I have alarmed, I have threatened, so as by every means to gather you in unto the fruit of repentance. And now, it behoveth that your part be done, and so your joy will be unfading.'

*Be perfect.* What is, *be perfect?* 'Be complete, fill up what is deficient.'

*Be comforted.* For, since their trials were numerous, and their perils great, he says, '*be comforted*, both by one another, and by us, and by your change unto the better. For if ye should have joy of conscience, and become complete, nothing is wanting unto your cheerfulness and comfort. For nothing doth so produce comfort as a pure conscience, yea, though innumerable temptations surround.'

*Be of one mind, live in peace.* The request he made in the former Epistle also, at the opening. For it is possible to be of one mind, and yet not to live in peace, [for instance,]

when people agree in doctrine, but in their dealings with each other are at variance. But Paul requires both. 2 Cor.  
XIII.  
12.

*And the God of love and peace shall be with you.* For truly he not only recommends and advises, but also prays. For either he prays for this, or else foretells what shall happen; or rather, both. 'For if ye do these things,' he says, 'for instance, if ye be *of one mind*, and *live in peace*, God also will be with you, for He is *the God of love and of peace*, and in these things He delighteth, He rejoiceth. Hence shall peace also be yours from His love; hence shall every evil be removed. This saved the world, this ended the long war, this blended together heaven and earth, this made men angels. This then let us also imitate, for love is the mother of countless good things. By this we were saved, by this all those unspeakable good things [are derived] to us.'

[2.] Then to lead them on unto it, he says,

Ver. 12. *Greet one another with an holy kiss.*

What is *holy*? not hollow<sup>1</sup>, not treacherous, like the kiss<sup>1</sup> *ὑπούλω* which Judas gave to Christ. For therefore is the kiss given, that it may be fuel unto love, that it may kindle the disposition, that we may so love each other, as brothers brothers, as children parents, as parents children; yea, rather even far more. For those things are a disposition implanted by nature, but these by spiritual grace. Thus are souls bound unto each other. And therefore, when we return after an absence, we kiss each other, our souls hastening unto mutual intercourse. For this is that member, which most of all declares to us the workings of the soul. But about this holy kiss somewhat (2.) else may yet be said. To what effect? We are the temple of Christ; we kiss then the porch and entrance of the temple, when we kiss each other. See ye not how many kiss even the porch of this temple, some stooping down, others grasping it with their hand, and putting their hand to their mouth. And through these gates and doors Christ both hath entered into us, and doth enter, whensoever we communicate. Ye who partake of the mysteries, understand what I say. For it is in no common manner that our lips are honoured, when they receive the Lord's Body. It is for this reason chiefly that we here kiss. Let them give ear who speak filthy things, who utter railing, and let them shudder



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to think, what that mouth is they dishonour; let those give ear, who kiss obscenely. Hear what things God hath proclaimed by thy mouth, and keep it undefiled. He hath discoursed of the life to come, of the resurrection, of immortality, that death is not death, of those other innumerable mysteries. For he that is about to be initiated comes to the priest's mouth, as it were an oracle, to hear things full of awe. For he lost his life even from his forefathers, and comes to seek it again, and to ask how he may haply find, and get it back again. Then God announceth to him how it may be found, and that mouth becomes more awful than the very mercy-seat. For that mercy-seat never sent forth a voice like this, but spake much of lesser things, of wars and such peace as is here below: but this speaks all about heaven, and the life to come, and things new and that pass understanding. And having said,

Ver. 13. *Salute one another with an holy kiss*, he added, *All the saints salute you.*

By this also giving them good hopes. He has added this, in the place of the kiss, knitting them together by the salutation, for the words also proceed from the same mouth from which the kiss. Seest thou how he brings them all together, both those who are widely separated in the body, and those who are near, these by the kiss, and those by the written message?

[3.] Ver. 14. *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Father*<sup>1</sup>, *and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.* After having united them to one other by the salutations and the kisses, he again closes his speech with prayer, with much carefulness uniting them unto God also. Where now are they who say, that because the Holy Spirit is not inserted in the beginnings of the Epistles, He is not of the same substance? For, behold, he hath now enumerated Him with the Father and the Son. And besides this, one may remark, that when writing to the Colossians, and saying, *Grace to you, and peace from God our Father*, he was silent of the Son, and added not, as in all his Epistles, and from the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>a</sup>. Is then the Son not of the same

<sup>1</sup> καὶ  
Πατρός  
om. R.  
T.

<sup>a</sup> See also Chrys. on Coloss. Oxford place the name of Christ.<sup>7</sup> Yet the Trans. 183. 'From God, saith he, our Rec. Text has the words, Col. i. 2. Father: although he useth not in this

substance either, because of this? Nay, these reasonings are of extreme folly. For this very thing especially shews Him to be of the same substance, that Paul useth the expression [or not] indifferently. And that what is here said is no conjecture, hear how he mentions Son and Spirit, and is quite silent of the Father. For, writing to the Corinthians, he says, *But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.* What then, tell me? were these not baptized into the Father? Then assuredly they were neither washed nor sanctified. But did they baptize them? doubtless then just as also they did baptize. How then did he not say, ‘Ye are washed in the name of the Father?’ Because it was indifferent in his view, at one time to make mention of this, at another of that Person; and you may observe this custom in many places of the Epistles. For writing to the Romans he says, *I beseech you therefore by the mercies of God,* although those mercies are of the Son; and, *I beseech you by the love of the Spirit,* although love is of the Father. Wherefore then mentioned he not the Son in *the mercies*, nor the Father in *the love*? Because as being things plain and admitted, he was silent about them. Moreover, he will be found again, to put the gifts also themselves transposedly<sup>1</sup>. For having said here, *The grace of Christ, and the love of God and the Father, and the communion of the Holy Ghost*; he in another place speaks of *the communion of the Son*, and of *the love of the Spirit*. For, *I beseech you*, he says, *by the love of the Spirit.* And in his Epistle to the Corinthians, *God is faithful, by Whom ye were called unto the communion of His Son.* Thus the things of the Trinity are undivided: and whereas the communion is of the Spirit, it hath been found of the Son; and whereas the grace is of the Son, it is also of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit; for [we read], *Grace be to you from God the Father.* And in another place, having enumerated many forms of it, he added, *But all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.* And I say these things, not confounding<sup>2</sup> the Persons, (away with the thought!) but knowing both the individuality and distinctness<sup>3</sup> of These, and the Unity of the Substance.

<sup>2</sup> Cor.  
XIII.  
13.

<sup>1</sup> Cor.  
6, 11.

Rom.  
12, 1.  
15, 30.

<sup>1</sup> ἀντι-  
στρόφως

Rom.  
15, 30.  
<sup>1</sup> Cor.

1, 9.

<sup>2</sup> συνα-  
λείφω

<sup>3</sup> ἰδιόζον  
καὶ διη-  
ρημένον

HOMIL.  
XXX.  
(3.)

[4.] Let us then continue both to hold these doctrines in their strictness, and to draw to us the love of God. For before indeed He loved us when hating Him, and reconciled us who were His enemies; but henceforth He wishes to love us as loving Him. Let us then continue to love Him, so that we may be also loved by Him. For if, when beloved by powerful men, we are formidable to all, much more when [beloved] by God. And should it be needful to give wealth, or body, or even life itself for this love, let us not grudge them. For it is not enough to say in words, that we love, but we ought to give also the proof of deeds; for neither did He shew love by words only, but by deeds also. Do thou then also shew this by thy deeds, and do those things which please Him, for so shalt thou thyself reap again the advantage. For He needeth nothing that we have to bestow, and this is also a special proof of a sincere love, when one who needeth nothing, and who is not in any necessity, doth all for the sake of being loved by us. Wherefore also Moses said, *For what doth the Lord God require of you, but to love Him, and that thou shouldest be ready to walk after Him?* So that when He biddeth thee love Him, He then most of all sheweth that He loves thee. For nothing doth so secure our salvation as to love Him. See then, how that all His commandments even tend together to our repose, and salvation, and good report. For when He says, *Blessed are the merciful, blessed are the pure in heart, blessed are the meek, blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the peacemakers;* He Himself indeed reaps no advantage from these, but he enjoins them for our adorning and attuning; and when He says, *I was an hungred,* it is not as needing that ministry from us, but as exciting thee to humanity. For He was well able even without thee to feed the poor man; but as bestowing upon thee an exceeding treasure, he laid these commands upon thee. For if the sun, which is but a creature, needeth not our eyes; for he abideth in his own proper brightness, even though none should look upon him, and we it is are the gainers when we enjoy his beams; much more is this so with God. But that thou mayest learn this in yet another way; how great wilt thou have the distance to be between God and us? as great as between gnats and us, or much

Deut.  
10, 12.

Matt. 5,  
3—9.

greater? Quite plainly it is much greater, yea, infinite. If <sup>2 COR.</sup> then we vainglorious creatures need not service nor honour <sup>XIII.</sup> from gnats, much rather the Divine Nature [none from us], <sup>13.</sup> seeing It is impassible, and needing nothing. The measure of that which He enjoyeth by us, is but the greatness of our benefit, and the delight He taketh in our salvation. For this reason He also oftentimes relinquisheth His own, and seeketh thine. *For if any, he saith, have a wife that* <sup>1 COR. 7,</sup> *believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let* <sup>12.</sup> *him not put her away; and, He that putteth away his wife,* <sup>Matt. 5,</sup> *saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit* <sup>32.</sup> *adultery.* Seest thou what unspeakable goodness? ‘If a wife be a harlot,’ He says, ‘I do not compel the husband to live with her; and if she be an unbeliever, I do not forbid him.’ Again, ‘if thou be grieved against any one, I command him that hath grieved thee to leave My gift and to run to thee.’ For He saith, *If thou bring thy gift, and there* <sup>Matt. 5,</sup> *remember that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave* <sup>23. 24.</sup> *thy gift before the altar, and go thy way, first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.* And what saith the parable of him that had devoured his all? Doth <sup>Mat. 18,</sup> it not shew this? For when he had eaten up those ten <sup>24. &c.</sup> thousand talents, He had mercy on him, and let him go; but when he demanded of his fellowservant an hundred pence, he both called him wicked, and delivered him over to the punishment. So great account doth He make of thy ease. The barbarian was about to sin against the wife of the just man, and He says, *I spared thee from sinning* <sup>Gen. 20,</sup> *against me.* Paul persecuted the Apostles, and He saith <sup>6.</sup> to him, *Why persecutest thou Me?* Others are hungry, and He Himself saith He is an hungred, and wanders about naked and a stranger, wishing to shame thee, and so to force thee into the way of almsgiving.

Reflecting then upon the love, how great it is, He hath shewn in all things, and still shews, both having vouchsafed to make Himself known to us, (which is the greatest crown of good things, and light to the understanding and instruction in virtue,) and to lay down laws for the best mode of life, and having done all things for our sakes, having given His Son, and promised a kingdom, and invited us to those

HOMIL. unspeakable good things, and prepared for us a most blessed  
XXX. life, let us do and say every thing so as both to appear worthy  
of His love; and to obtain the good things to come; where-  
unto may we all attain, through the grace and love towards  
men of our Lord Jesus Christ; with Whom to the Father,  
with the Holy Spirit, be glory now and ever, and world  
without end. Amen.



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THE END.

CORRIGENDA.

Page 6, line 5. *for* describing *read* describeth  
66. 10. *after* Laver *insert* comma  
186. 18. *for* Homoxobii *read* Hamaxobii  
241. last line but 6. *after* them *insert* *for*  
298. 12. *for* Adrian *read* Hadrian



# LIBRARY OF THE FATHERS

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## PUBLICATION OF THE ORIGINAL TEXTS.

THE plan of publishing some at the least of the originals of the Fathers, whose works were translated in the "Library," has been steadily kept in view from the first, and Collations have now been obtained, at considerable expense, at Rome, Paris, Munich, Vienna, Florence, Venice, and the Editors have materials for the principal works of S. Chrysostom, for S. Cyril of Jerusalem, S. Macarius, Tertullian, and S. Augustine's Homilies on the Psalms. Collations are also being made for S. Gregory of Nyssa.

Of these, they have begun with S. CHRYSOSTOM on St. Paul, the Rev. F. Field, M.A. Trin. Coll. Cambridge, having united with them in this great task. He has already edited the Homilies on the Epistles to the Corinthians, and is now carrying through the press those on the Epistle to the Romans.

All the best MSS. known in Europe have been collated for this edition, and the text has been considerably improved, as that of the Homilies on S. Matthew had already been by the same Editor \*. There is then every prospect that the English Edition of S. Chrysostom will be again the best extant.

All the extant European MSS. have likewise been collated for S. CYRIL of JERUSALEM and TERTULLIAN. Of these S. CYRIL is nearly ready for the press.

The publication of Tertullian has been delayed, because it was discovered that the result of the collations would be to make the text more genuine, yet more difficult than before. M. Heyse, who was collating for the Editors at Rome, being requested to search for the MS. or MSS. which F. Ursinus alleged that he had used, discovered the original papers of Ursinus, in which it appeared that the readings which Rigaltius adopted from him, were in fact only ingenious conjectures by Ursinus himself, which he gave out as collations of MSS. The Editor of the treatises of Tertullian already translated, being thus thrown back upon the older text, found reason to think that in those cases the readings, which Ursinus had corrected, although at first sight obscurer, were (he believes with one exception) the more genuine.

With regard to S. Augustine, there seemed reason to think that there was very little or nothing left to be done for the improvement of the text after the admirable labours of the Benedictines. Some collations which the Editors obtained, through their laborious Collator, from very ancient MSS. of his Epistles at Monte-Cassino, confirmed this impression. And this is again renewed by some Collations on the Psalms, which the same Scholar has made for them from a very ancient Codex rescriptus in the

\* Mr. Field's edition of the Homilies on S. Matthew is supplied to Subscribers to the Library at the same reduced rate as the other volumes. [*Publisher.*]



Vatican. Still, besides the improvement of the text of any Father, if possible, the Editors had the distinct object of making single valuable works accessible to Clergy who could not afford to purchase his whole works. They, therefore, propose to publish S. Augustine's Homilies on the Psalms, since they are not only a deep and valuable Commentary on a portion of Holy Scripture, which forms so large a part of our public devotions, but contain, perhaps, more of his practical theology and hints as to the inward spiritual life, than most of his works. Besides the above Vatican MS, Collations are being made of some of the Bodleian MSS, which have not been used, since even an occasional improvement of the collocation, or still more occasional of the text itself, is not without interest in a work of such exceeding value.

Large Collations had been made for S. MACARIUS, and it seemed almost ready for publication, when their indefatigable Collator, M. Heyse, discovered in the Vatican an entirely different recension. In accordance with the rules of the Vatican, access was, upon this, denied them to all MSS. whatever of S. Macarius, and the edition has consequently been, for the time, suspended.

For S. GREGORY OF NYSSA considerable preparations have been made, although nothing is yet ready for the press.

For these undertakings, the Editors have only their private resources, (any profits from the translations having been much more than absorbed by the Collations.) The present number of Subscribers to the original texts is only 421. Works printed in England have, owing to the expense of labour here, but a limited circulation abroad. If then it is wished that the publication of the originals should proceed more rapidly, there must be additional Subscribers.

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TRANSLATED BY MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH,  
WITH NOTICES OF THE RESPECTIVE FATHERS, AND BRIEF NOTES BY THE EDITORS,  
WHERE REQUIRED, AND SUMMARIES OF CHAPTERS AND INDICES.

---

EDITED BY

THE REV. E. B. PUSEY, D.D.

*Regius Professor of Hebrew, Canon of Christ Church, late Fellow of Oriel College.*

THE REV. JOHN KEBLE, M.A.

*Late Professor of Poetry, and Fellow of Oriel College.*

THE REV. C. MARRIOTT, B.D.

*Fellow of Oriel College.*

---

A PUBLICATION, answering to the above title, appeared to the Editors calculated to answer many and important ends, and to supply considerable wants, some peculiar to our own Church and times, others more general.

Their chief grounds for thinking it very desirable were such as the following:—

1. The great intrinsic value of many of the works of the Fathers, which are, at present, inaccessible, except to such as have large libraries, and are *familiar* with the languages in which they are written; and this the more, since a mere general acquaintance with the language will not enable a person to read with ease many of the Fathers. E. g. Knowledge of Latin alone will not suffice to read Tertullian: and in cases less strong, ecclesiastical language and peculiarity of style will often present considerable difficulties at first.

2. The desirableness of bringing together select works of different Fathers. Many who would wish to become acquainted with the Fathers, know not where to begin; and scarcely any have the means to procure any great number of their works. Editions of the *whole* works of a Father, (such as we for the most part have,) are obviously calculated for divines, not for private individuals: they furnish more of the works of each Father than most require, and their expense precludes the acquisition of others.

3. The increased demand for sacred reading. The Clergy of one period are obviously unequal to meet demands so rapid, and those of our day have additional hindrances, from the great increased amount of practical duties. Where so much is to be produced, there is of necessity great danger that

much will not be so mature as, on these subjects, is especially to be desired. Our occupations do not leave time for mature thought.

4. Every body of Christians has a peculiar character, which tends to make them look upon the system of faith, committed to us, on a particular side; and so, if they carry it on by themselves, they insensibly contract its limits and depth, and virtually lose a great deal of what they think that they hold. While the system of the Church, as expressed by her Creeds and Liturgy, remains the same, that of her members will gradually become contracted and shallow, unless continually enlarged and refreshed. In ancient times this tendency was remedied by the constant living intercourse between the several branches of the Catholic Church, by the circulation of the writings of the Fathers of the several Churches, and, in part, by the present method—translation. We virtually acknowledge the necessity of such accessions by our importations from Germany and America; but the circumstances of Germany render mere translation unadvisable, and most of the American Theology proceeds from bodies who have altered the doctrine of the Sacraments.

5. The peculiar advantages of the Fathers in resisting heretical errors, in that they had to combat the errors in their original form, before men's minds were familiarized with them, and so risked partaking of them; and also in that they lived nearer to the Apostles.

6. The great comfort of being able to produce, out of Christian antiquity, refutations of heresy, (such as the different shades of the Arian :) thereby avoiding the necessity of discussing, ourselves, profane errors, which, on so high mysteries, cannot be handled without pain, and rarely without injury to our own minds.

7. The advantage which some of the Fathers (e. g. St. Chrysostom) possessed as Commentators on the New Testament, from speaking its language.

8. The value of having an ocular testimony of the existence of Catholic verity, and Catholic agreement; that truth is not merely what a man *troweth*; that the Church once was one, and spake one language; and that the present unhappy divisions are not necessary and unavoidable.

9. The circumstance that the Anglican branch of the Church Catholic is founded upon Holy Scripture and the agreement of the Universal Church; and that therefore the knowledge of Christian antiquity is necessary in order to understand and maintain her doctrines, and especially her Creeds and her Liturgy.

10. The importance, at the present crisis, of exhibiting the real practical value of Catholic Antiquity, which is disparaged by Romanists in order to make way for the later Councils, and by others in behalf of modern and private interpretations of Holy Scripture. The character of Catholic antiquity, and of the scheme of salvation, as set forth therein, cannot be appreciated through the broken sentences of the Fathers, which men pick up out of controversial divinity.

11. The great danger in which Romanists are of lapsing into secret infidelity, not seeing how to escape from the palpable errors of their own Church, without falling into the opposite errors of Ultra-Protestants. It appeared an act of especial charity to point out to such of them as are dissatisfied with the state of their own Church, a body of ancient Catholic truth, free from the errors, alike of modern Rome and of Ultra-Protestantism.

12. Gratitude to ALMIGHTY GOD, who has raised up these great lights in the Church of Christ, and set them there for its benefit in all times.

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